רקיע 1

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Cover Design
Niigami Hiroshi (NARTI;S)

[漫画] [原作]
Boichi（ボウイチ）
矢島正雄

1

ラキア

MORNING KC

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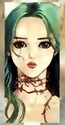
ラキア

1



[漫画] [原作]
Boichi（ボウイチ）
矢島正雄

講談社

9784063728217
1929979006198
雑誌 42669-21
ISBN978-4-06-372821-7
C9979 ¥619E (0)
講談社モーニングKC
定価：本体619円（税別）

רקיע

Near the end of the 20th century, a truck driver loses control in the Nevada desert, robbing one family of happiness. The sole survivor of this tragedy, a young girl named Luna Hazuki, makes a pact with a mysterious demon in a morgue. Seven years later, she is still living in America...with the family that should have been dead.

This is the first volume of a new Book of Revelations, brought to you by the team of writer Masao Yajima and Korean artist Boichi.

"God definitely exists." I was over 50 when I started believing that. I had led a totally reckless life and could have died at any time, yet here I am. Why is that? Why was I born? Why am I alive? I pondered and pondered and when I still couldn't find an answer, I had an epiphany: "God really does exist."

Masao Yajima

I was thrilled when I got the script for this Christian-themed fantasy story from Mr. Masao Yajima. You see, I'm interested in Christianity myself. I went to a mission school from junior high through college and had many opportunities to debate Christian theology. These days there are so many new theories and new interpretations. It's great to be able to work with Mr. Yajima to create a manga based on some of those new theories and interpretations.

Boichi

Translation
Megchan
Cleaning & Retouch
Weaper
Lettering
Nomad Soul

モーニングKC

ラキア

1

［原作］矢島正雄

［漫画］Boichi（ボウイチ）

講談社

MORNING KC

רקיע

RAQIYA

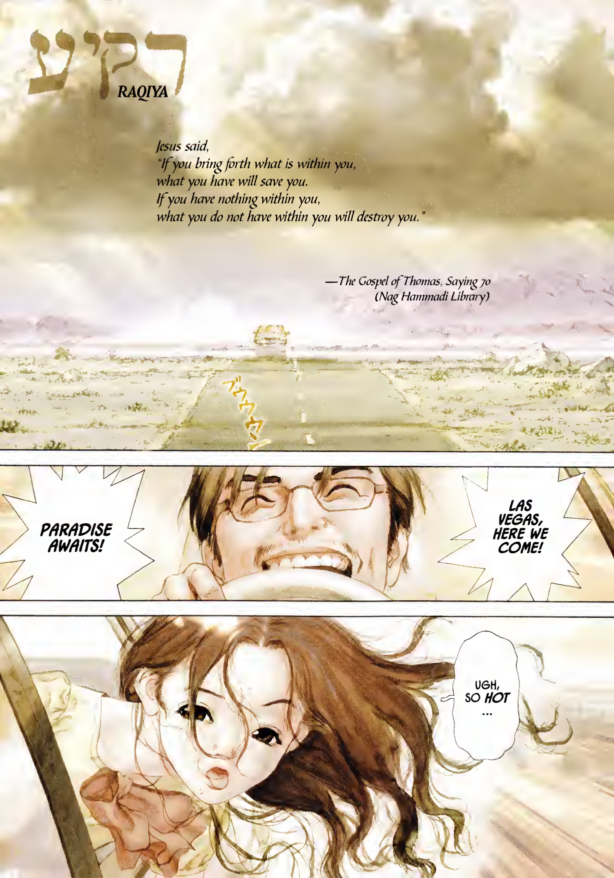
1

Art: **Boichi**

Story: **Masao Yajima**

רקיע
RAQIYA

> *Jesus said,*
> *"If you bring forth what is within you,*
> *what you have will save you.*
> *If you have nothing within you,*
> *what you do not have within you will destroy you."*
>
> —*The Gospel of Thomas, Saying 70*
> *(Nag Hammadi Library)*

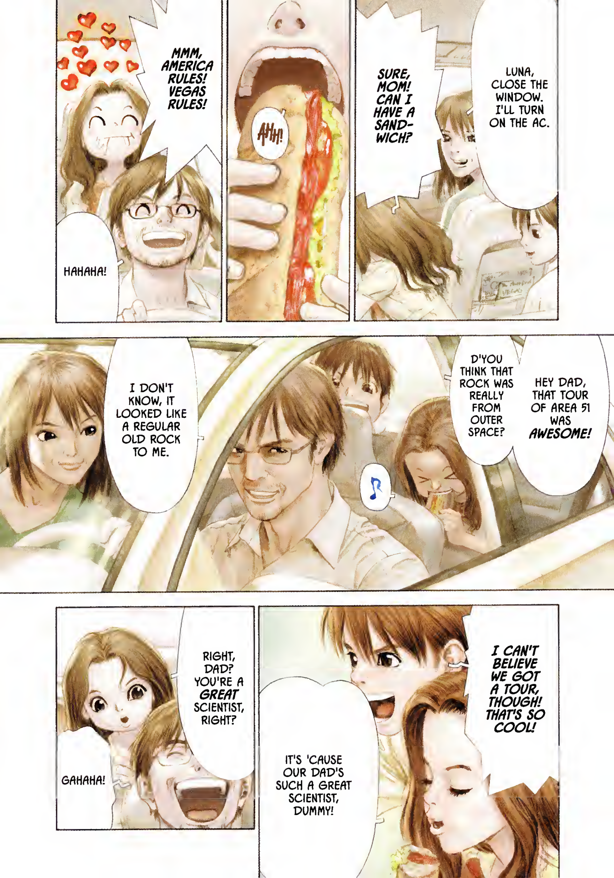

ブウウウ
LAS VEGAS, HERE WE COME!
PARADISE AWAITS!
UGH, SO HOT ...

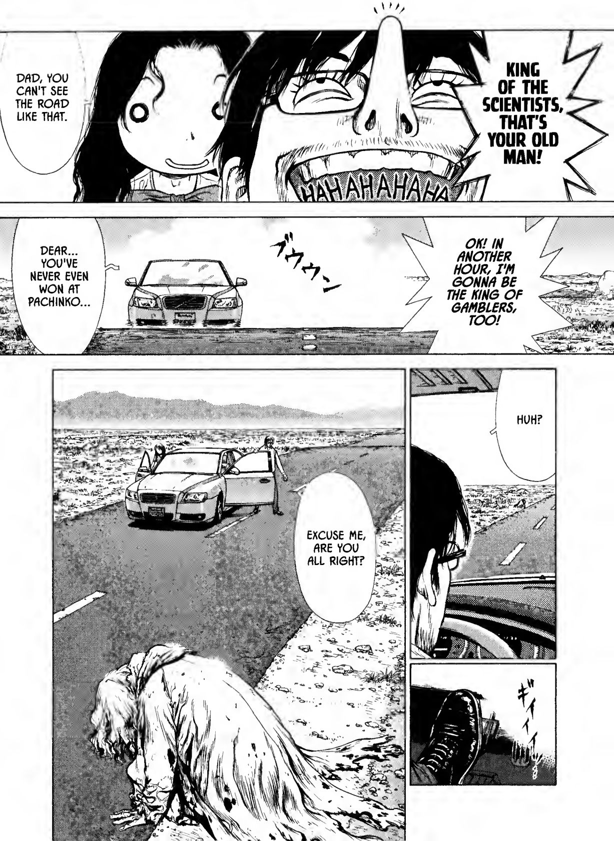
raqiya *[raw-kee'-ah]*
Classical Hebrew
1. the vault of heaven, firmament
2. an expanse

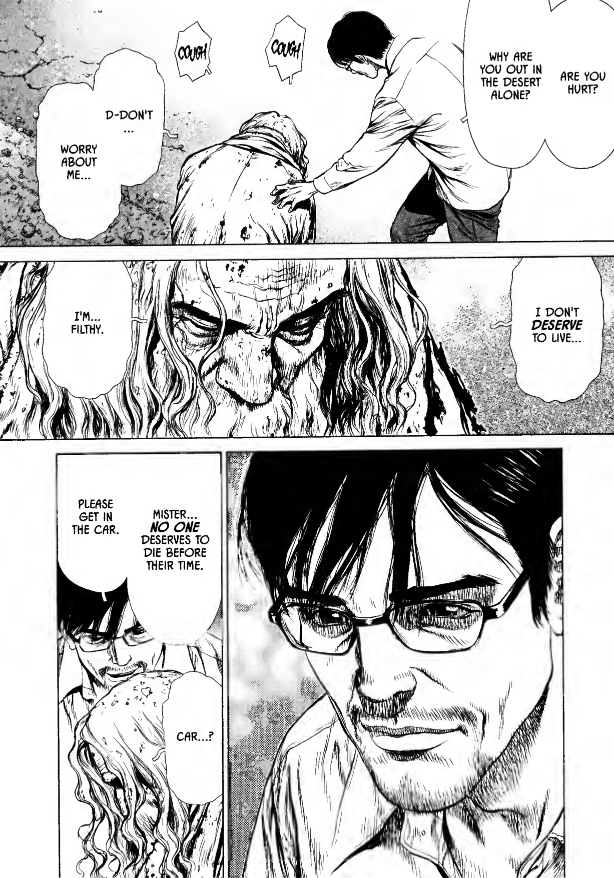
Codex 1

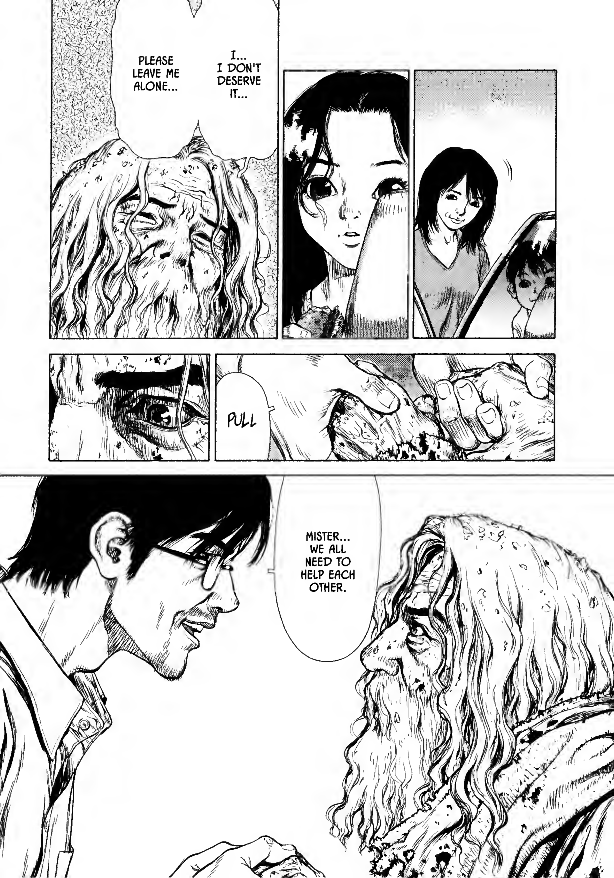
The Desert

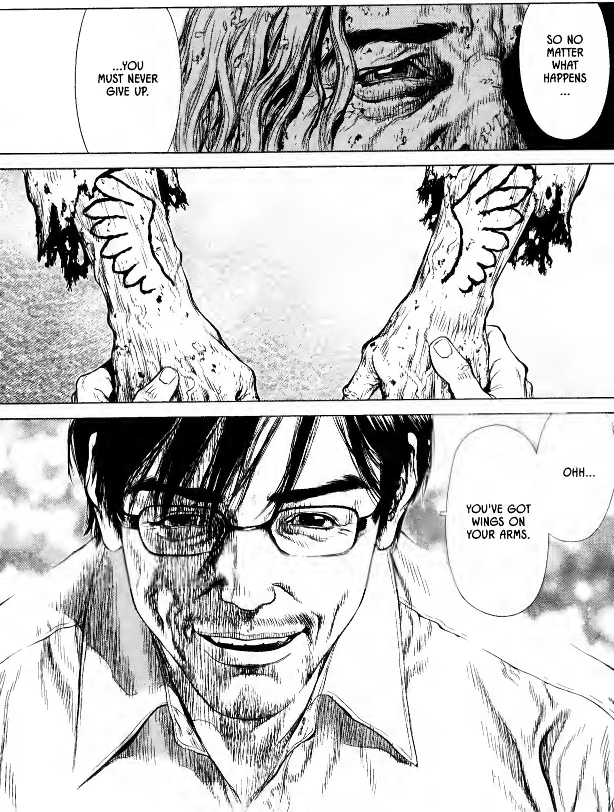
Art: **Boichi** Story: **Masao Yajima**

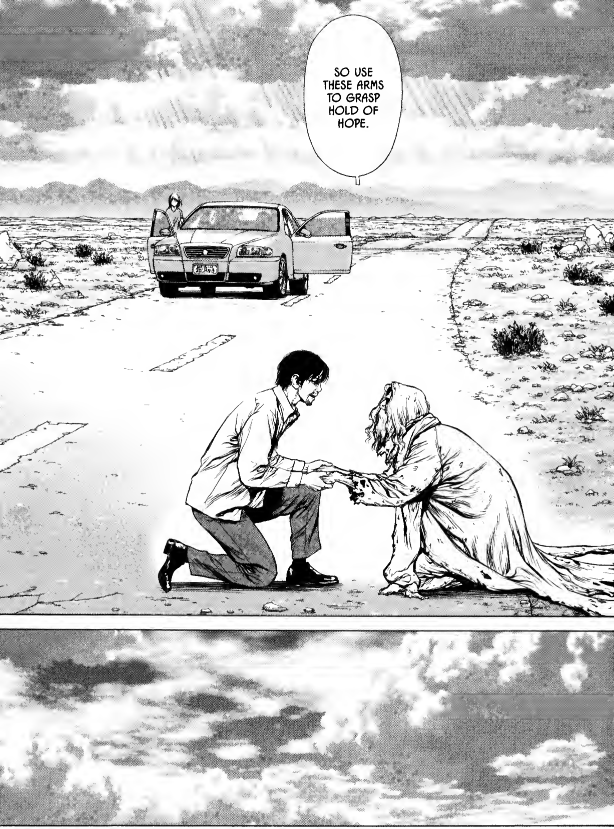

LUNA, CLOSE THE WINDOW. I'LL TURN ON THE AC.
SURE, MOM! CAN I HAVE A SANDWICH?
AHH!
MMM, AMERICA RULES! VEGAS RULES!
HAHAHA!
HEY DAD, THAT TOUR OF AREA 51 WAS AWESOME!
D'YOU THINK THAT ROCK WAS REALLY FROM OUTER SPACE?
♪
I DON'T KNOW, IT LOOKED LIKE A REGULAR OLD ROCK TO ME.
I CAN'T BELIEVE WE GOT A TOUR, THOUGH! THAT'S SO COOL!
IT'S 'CAUSE OUR DAD'S SUCH A GREAT SCIENTIST, DUMMY!
RIGHT, DAD? YOU'RE A GREAT SCIENTIST, RIGHT?
GAHAHA!

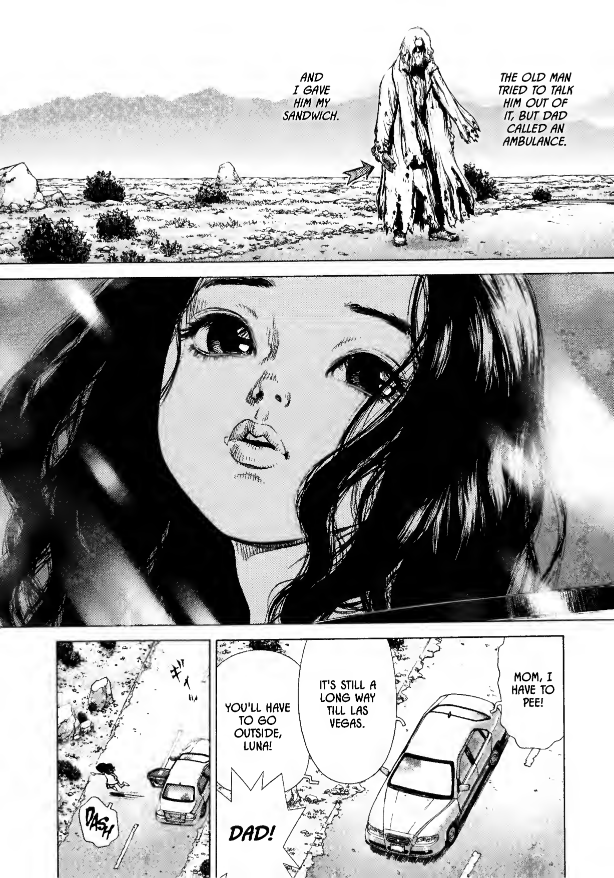

KING OF THE SCIENTISTS, THAT'S YOUR OLD MAN!
HAHAHAHAHA
DAD, YOU CAN'T SEE THE ROAD LIKE THAT.
OK! IN ANOTHER HOUR, I'M GONNA BE THE KING OF GAMBLERS, TOO!
ブウウン
DEAR... YOU'VE NEVER EVEN WON AT PACHINKO...
HUH?
ギィィィ
EXCUSE ME, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

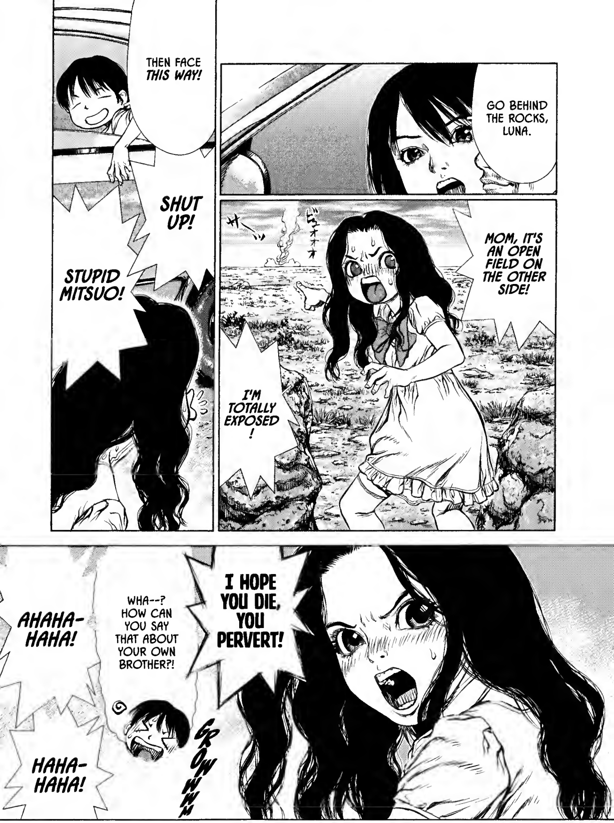

ARE YOU HURT?
WHY ARE YOU OUT IN THE DESERT ALONE?
COUGH
COUGH
D-DON'T ... WORRY ABOUT ME...
I DON'T *DESERVE* TO LIVE...
I'M... FILTHY.
MISTER... *NO ONE* DESERVES TO DIE BEFORE THEIR TIME.
PLEASE GET IN THE CAR.
CAR...?

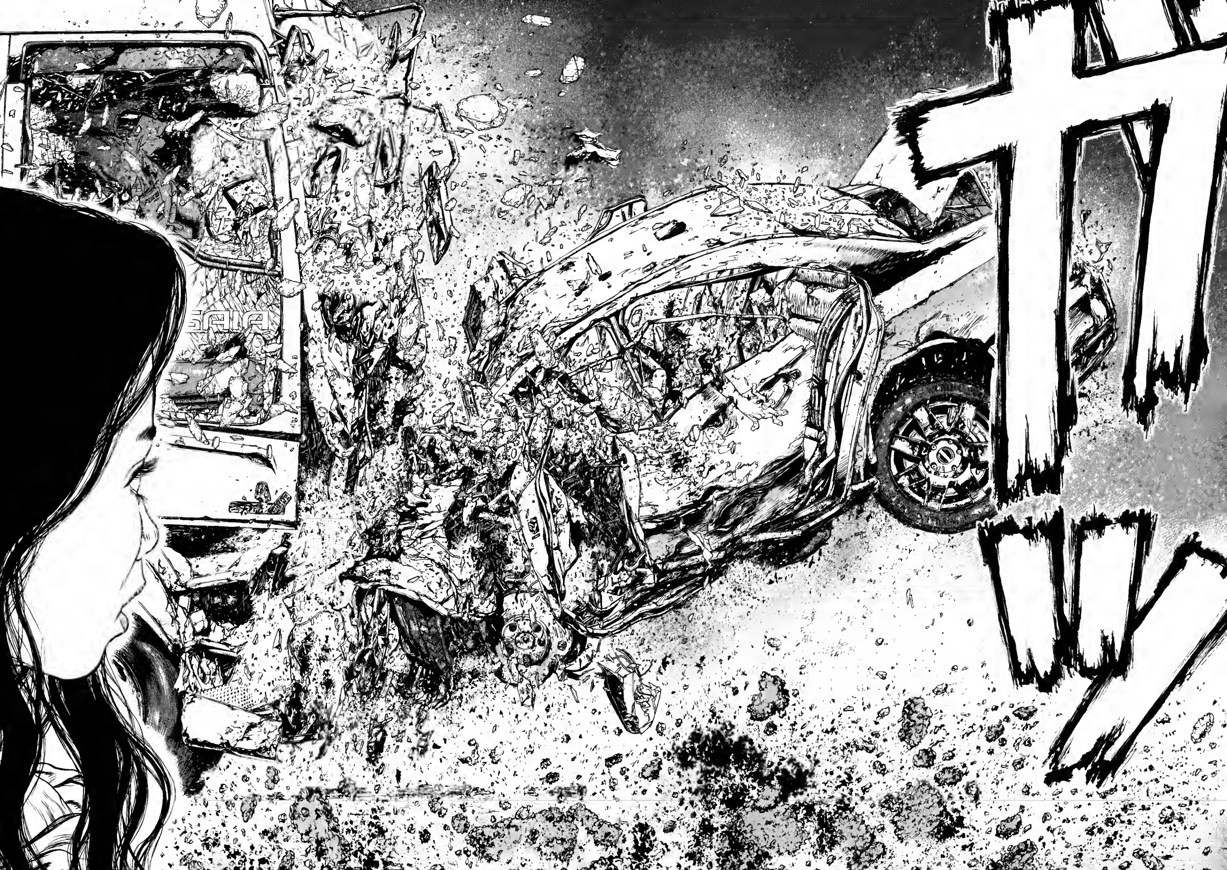

I... I DON'T DESERVE IT...
PLEASE LEAVE ME ALONE...
PULL
MISTER... WE ALL NEED TO HELP EACH OTHER.


SO NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS ...
...YOU MUST NEVER GIVE UP.
OHH... YOU'VE GOT WINGS ON YOUR ARMS.


SO USE THESE ARMS TO GRASP HOLD OF HOPE.


THE OLD MAN TRIED TO TALK HIM OUT OF IT, BUT DAD CALLED AN AMBULANCE.
AND I GAVE HIM MY SANDWICH.
MOM, I HAVE TO PEE!
IT'S STILL A LONG WAY TILL LAS VEGAS.
YOU'LL HAVE TO GO OUTSIDE, LUNA!
DAD!
ギィ
DASH


GO BEHIND THE ROCKS, LUNA.
THEN FACE THIS WAY!
ビュオオオ
MOM, IT'S AN OPEN FIELD ON THE OTHER SIDE!
I'M TOTALLY EXPOSED!
SHUT UP!
STUPID MITSUO!
I HOPE YOU DIE, YOU PERVERT!
WHA--? HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT ABOUT YOUR OWN BROTHER?!
AHAHA-HAHA!
HAHA-HAHA!
GROWWM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SAIA

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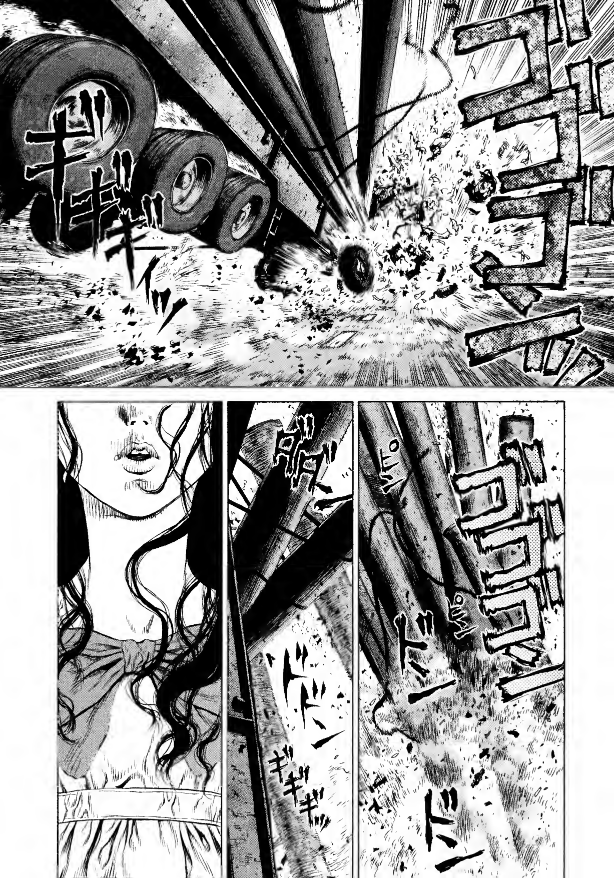
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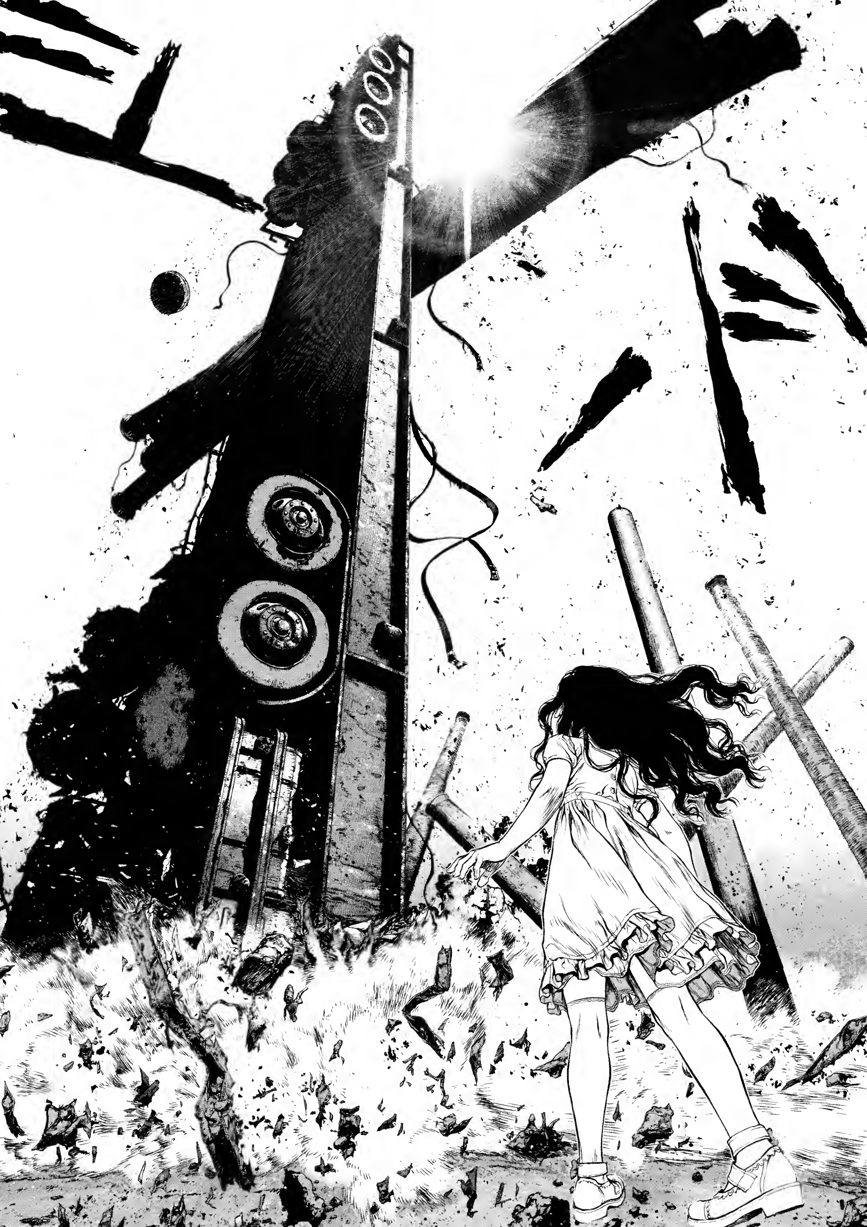
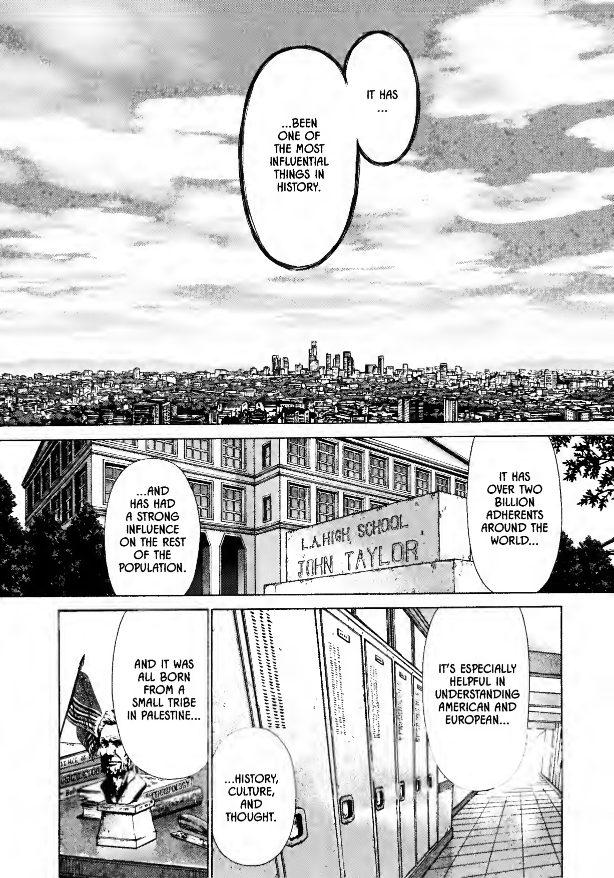
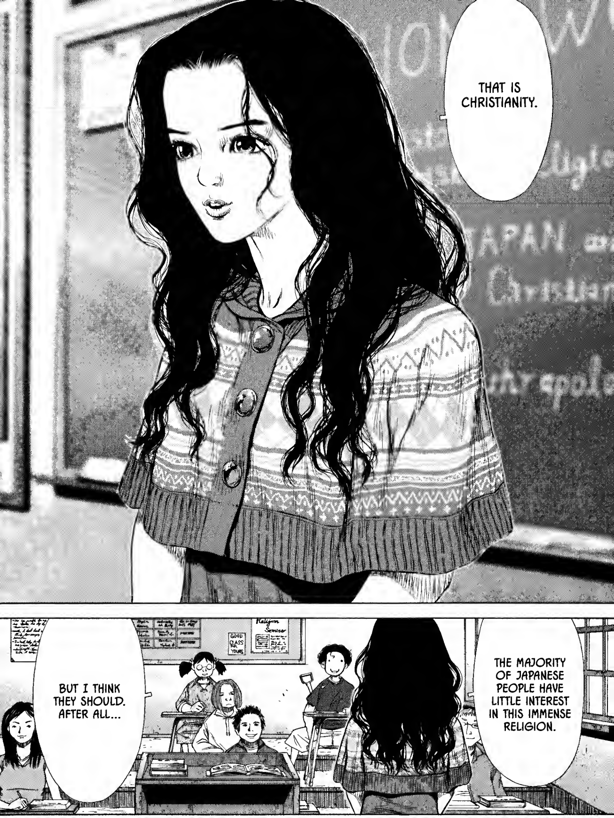
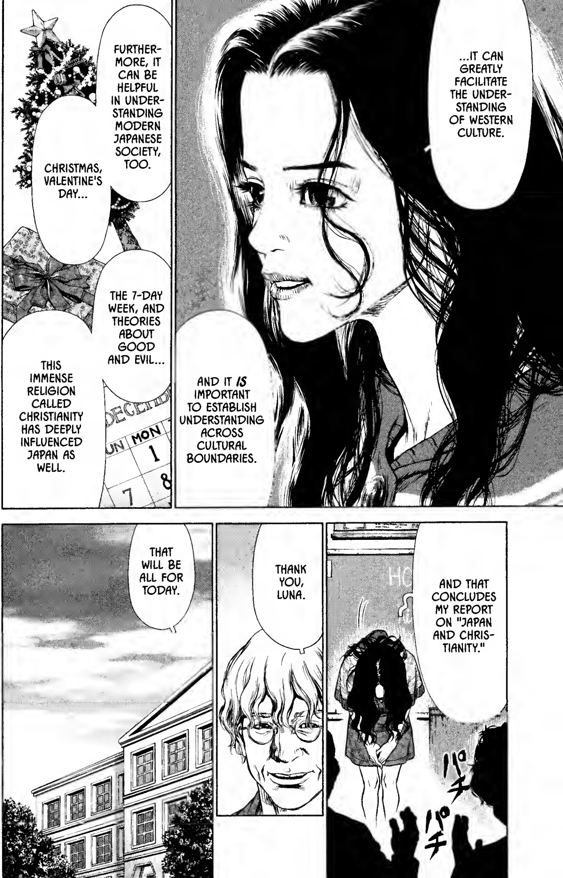
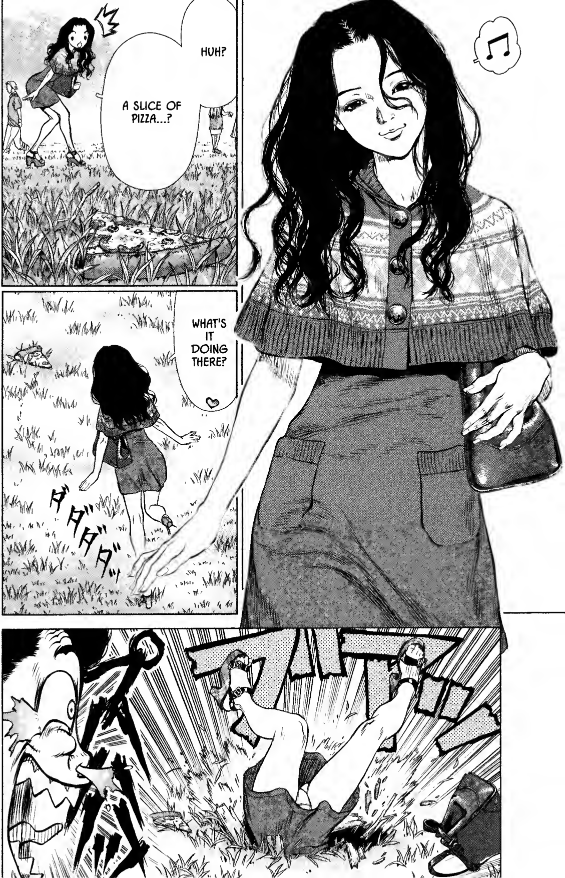
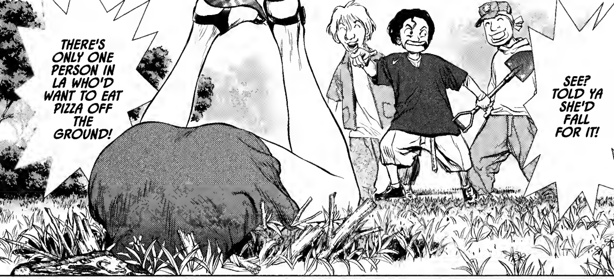


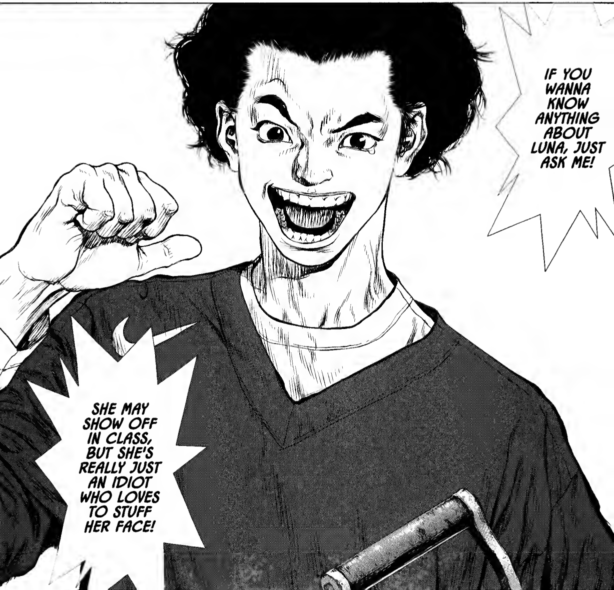

IT HAS ...
...BEEN ONE OF THE MOST INFLUENTIAL THINGS IN HISTORY.
IT HAS OVER TWO BILLION ADHERENTS AROUND THE WORLD...
...AND HAS HAD A STRONG INFLUENCE ON THE REST OF THE POPULATION.
L.A. HIGH SCHOOL
JOHN TAYLOR
IT'S ESPECIALLY HELPFUL IN UNDERSTANDING AMERICAN AND EUROPEAN...
...HISTORY, CULTURE, AND THOUGHT.
AND IT WAS ALL BORN FROM A SMALL TRIBE IN PALESTINE...
ANTHROPOLOGY

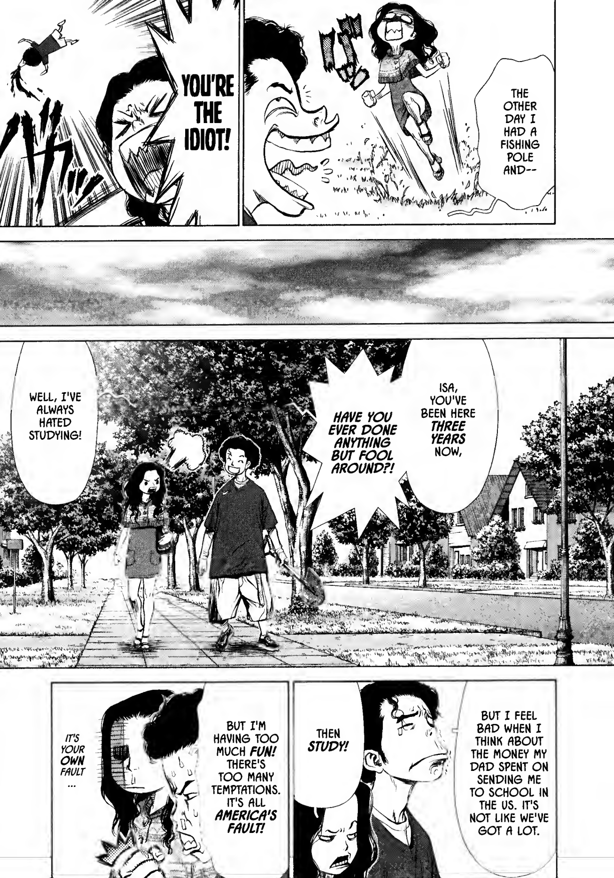

THAT IS CHRISTIANITY.
JAPAN
THE MAJORITY OF JAPANESE PEOPLE HAVE LITTLE INTEREST IN THIS IMMENSE RELIGION.
Religion Seminar
GOOD CLASS FOR YOURS
BUT I THINK THEY SHOULD. AFTER ALL...

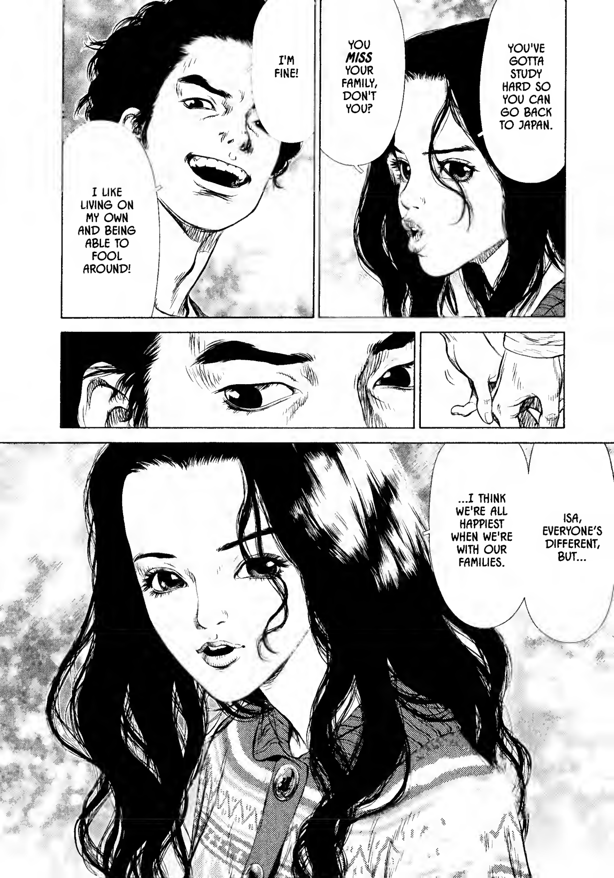

...IT CAN GREATLY FACILITATE THE UNDERSTANDING OF WESTERN CULTURE.
AND IT *IS* IMPORTANT TO ESTABLISH UNDERSTANDING ACROSS CULTURAL BOUNDARIES.
FURTHERMORE, IT CAN BE HELPFUL IN UNDERSTANDING MODERN JAPANESE SOCIETY, TOO.
CHRISTMAS, VALENTINE'S DAY...
THE 7-DAY WEEK, AND THEORIES ABOUT GOOD AND EVIL...
THIS IMMENSE RELIGION CALLED CHRISTIANITY HAS DEEPLY INFLUENCED JAPAN AS WELL.
MON
1
7
8
AND THAT CONCLUDES MY REPORT ON "JAPAN AND CHRISTIANITY."
パチ
パチ
THANK YOU, LUNA.
THAT WILL BE ALL FOR TODAY.

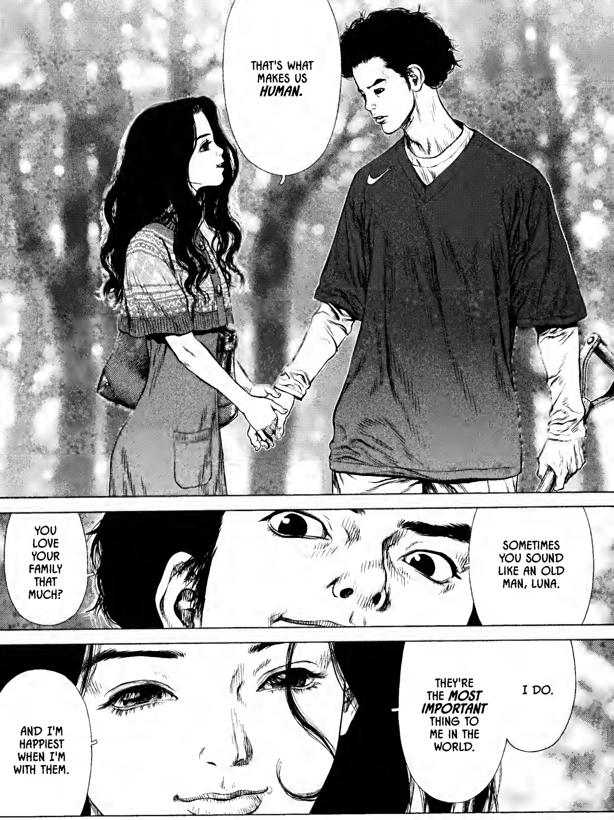

♫
HUH?
A SLICE OF PIZZA...?
WHAT'S IT DOING THERE? ♡
ダダダダッ

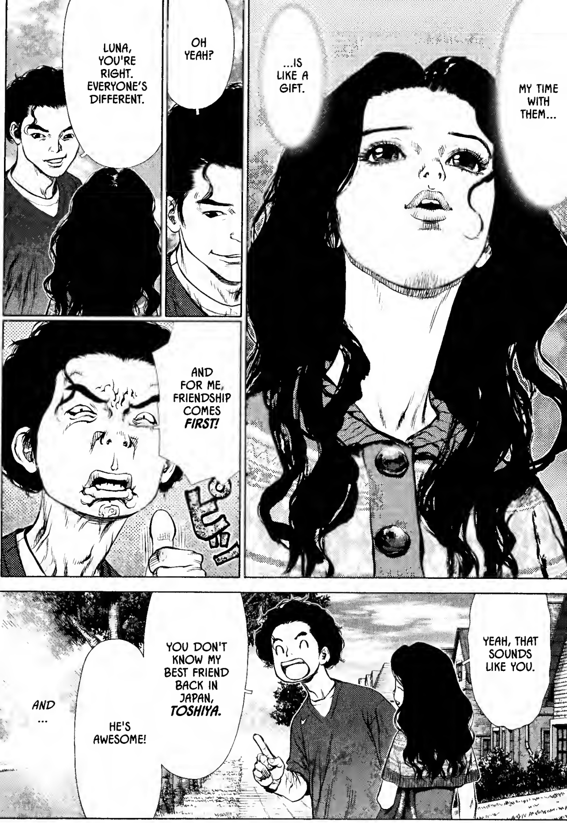

SEE? TOLD YA SHE'D FALL FOR IT!
THERE'S ONLY ONE PERSON IN LA WHO'D WANT TO EAT PIZZA OFF THE GROUND!

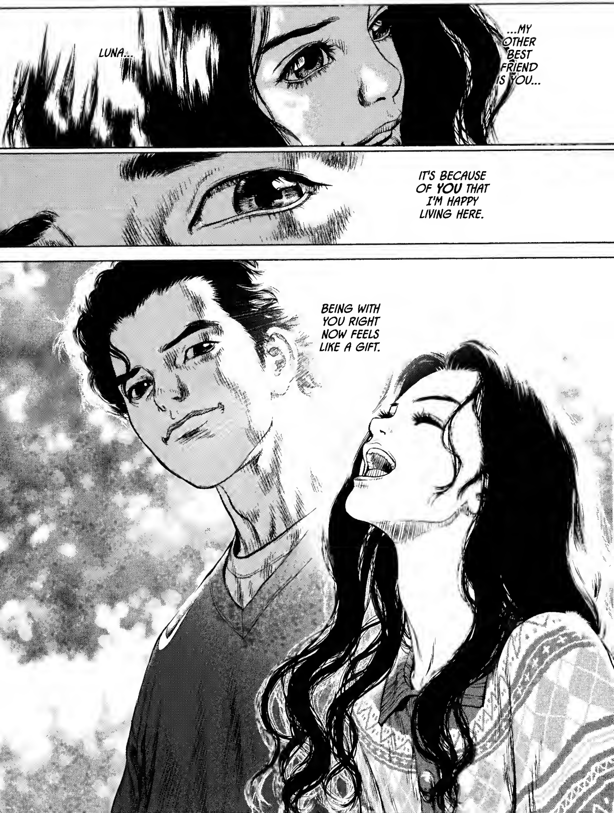

IF YOU WANNA KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT LUNA, JUST ASK ME!
SHE MAY SHOW OFF IN CLASS, BUT SHE'S REALLY JUST AN IDIOT WHO LOVES TO STUFF HER FACE!

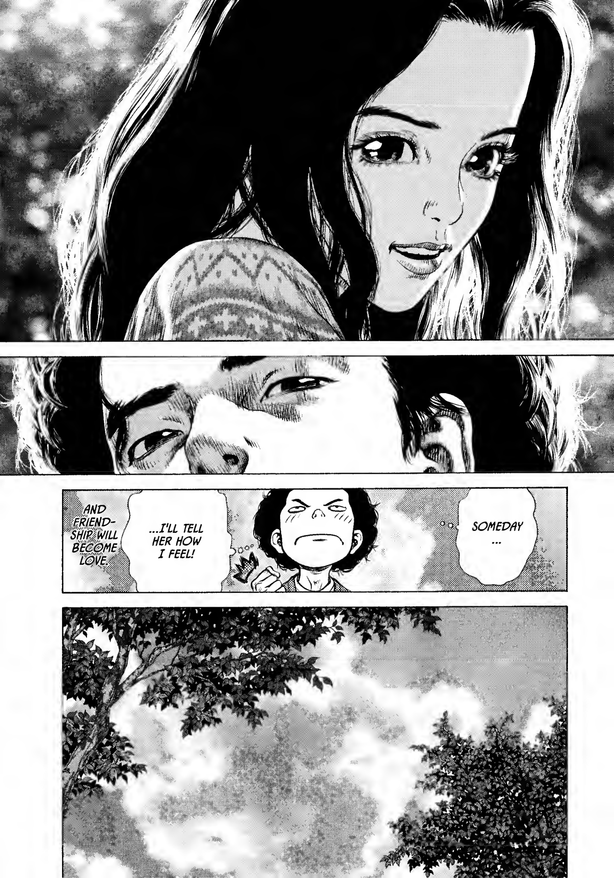

THE OTHER DAY I HAD A FISHING POLE AND--
YOU'RE THE IDIOT!
ISA, YOU'VE BEEN HERE THREE YEARS NOW,
HAVE YOU EVER DONE ANYTHING BUT FOOL AROUND?!
WELL, I'VE ALWAYS HATED STUDYING!
BUT I FEEL BAD WHEN I THINK ABOUT THE MONEY MY DAD SPENT ON SENDING ME TO SCHOOL IN THE US. IT'S NOT LIKE WE'VE GOT A LOT.
THEN STUDY!
BUT I'M HAVING TOO MUCH FUN! THERE'S TOO MANY TEMPTATIONS. IT'S ALL AMERICA'S FAULT!
IT'S YOUR OWN FAULT ...

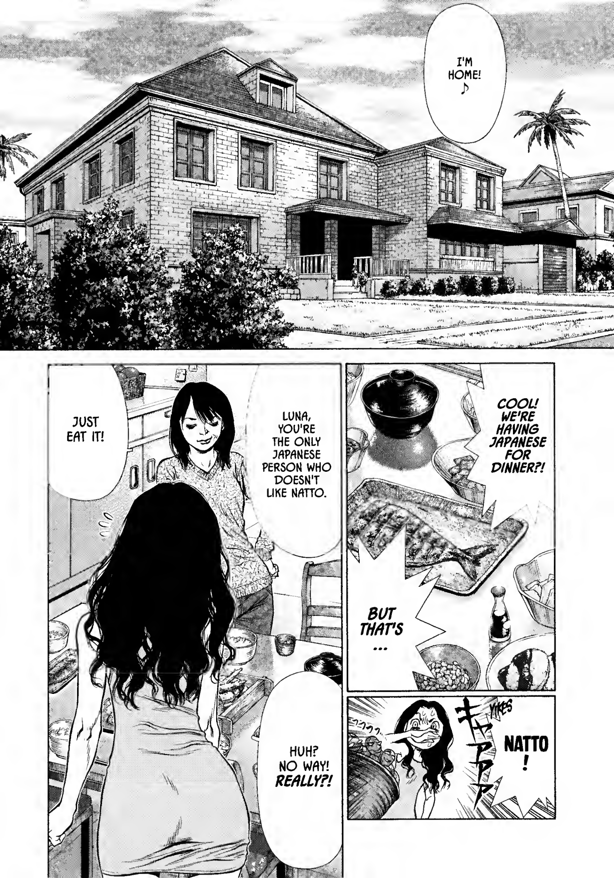

YOU'VE GOTTA STUDY HARD SO YOU CAN GO BACK TO JAPAN.
YOU *MISS* YOUR FAMILY, DON'T YOU?
I'M FINE!
I LIKE LIVING ON MY OWN AND BEING ABLE TO FOOL AROUND!
ISA, EVERYONE'S DIFFERENT, BUT...
...I THINK WE'RE ALL HAPPIEST WHEN WE'RE WITH OUR FAMILIES.

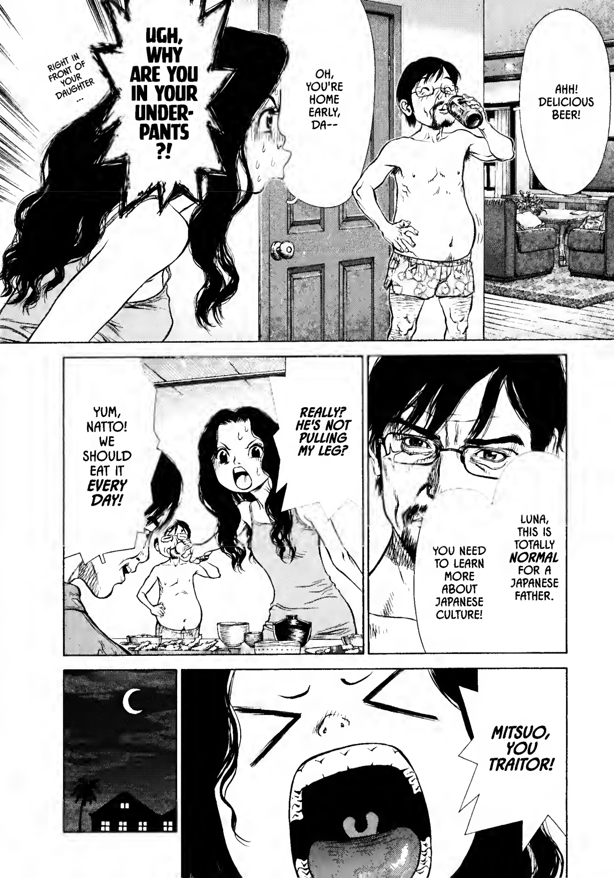

THAT'S WHAT MAKES US *HUMAN.*
SOMETIMES YOU SOUND LIKE AN OLD MAN, LUNA.
YOU LOVE YOUR FAMILY THAT MUCH?
I DO.
THEY'RE THE *MOST IMPORTANT* THING TO ME IN THE WORLD.
AND I'M HAPPIEST WHEN I'M WITH THEM.

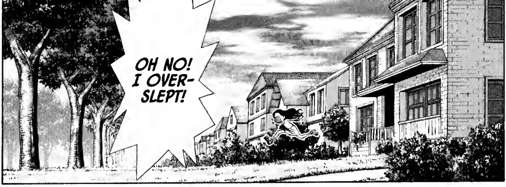

MY TIME WITH THEM...
...IS LIKE A GIFT.
OH YEAH?
LUNA, YOU'RE RIGHT. EVERYONE'S DIFFERENT.
AND FOR ME, FRIENDSHIP COMES *FIRST!*
ビシッ!
YEAH, THAT SOUNDS LIKE YOU.
YOU DON'T KNOW MY BEST FRIEND BACK IN JAPAN, ***TOSHIYA.***
HE'S AWESOME!
AND ...

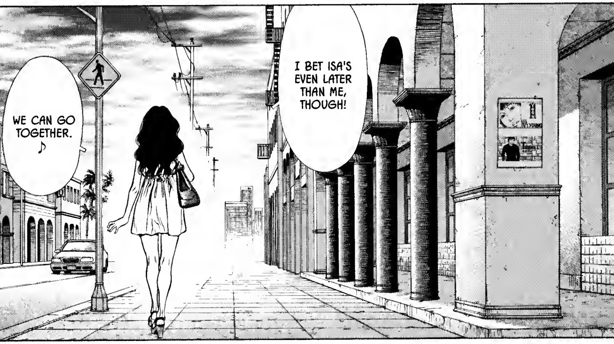

LUNA...
...MY OTHER BEST FRIEND IS YOU...
IT'S BECAUSE OF **YOU** THAT I'M HAPPY LIVING HERE.
BEING WITH YOU RIGHT NOW FEELS LIKE A GIFT.

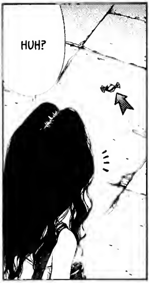

SOMEDAY ...
...I'LL TELL HER HOW I FEEL!
AND FRIENDSHIP WILL BECOME LOVE.

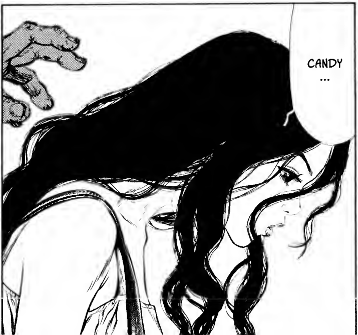

I'M HOME! ♪
COOL! WE'RE HAVING JAPANESE FOR DINNER?!
BUT THAT'S ...
キャアア
YIKES
NATTO!
LUNA, YOU'RE THE ONLY JAPANESE PERSON WHO DOESN'T LIKE NATTO.
JUST EAT IT!
HUH? NO WAY! *REALLY?!*

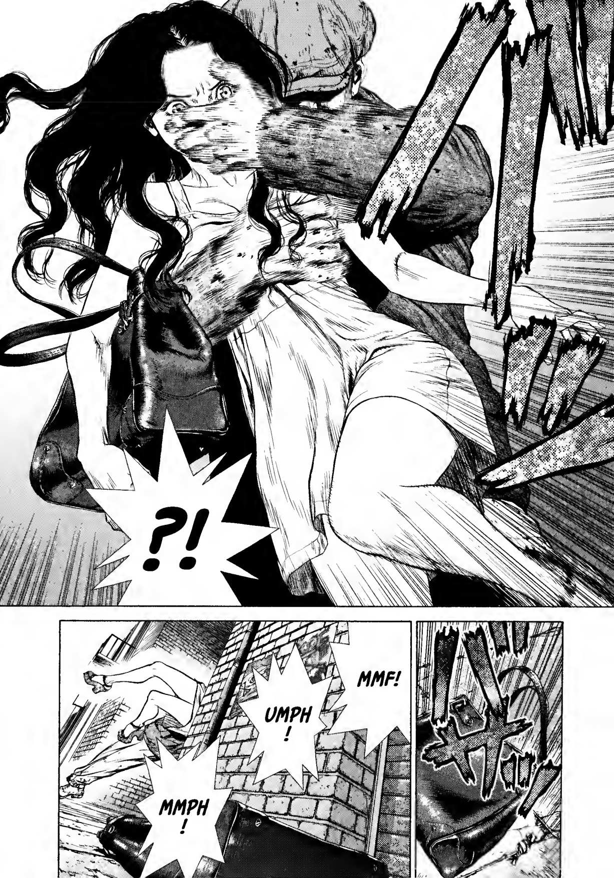

AHH! DELICIOUS BEER!
OH, YOU'RE HOME EARLY, DA--
UGH, WHY ARE YOU IN YOUR UNDERPANTS?!
RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOUR DAUGHTER...
LUNA, THIS IS TOTALLY NORMAL FOR A JAPANESE FATHER.
YOU NEED TO LEARN MORE ABOUT JAPANESE CULTURE!
REALLY? HE'S NOT PULLING MY LEG?
YUM, NATTO! WE SHOULD EAT IT EVERY DAY!
MITSUO, YOU TRAITOR!

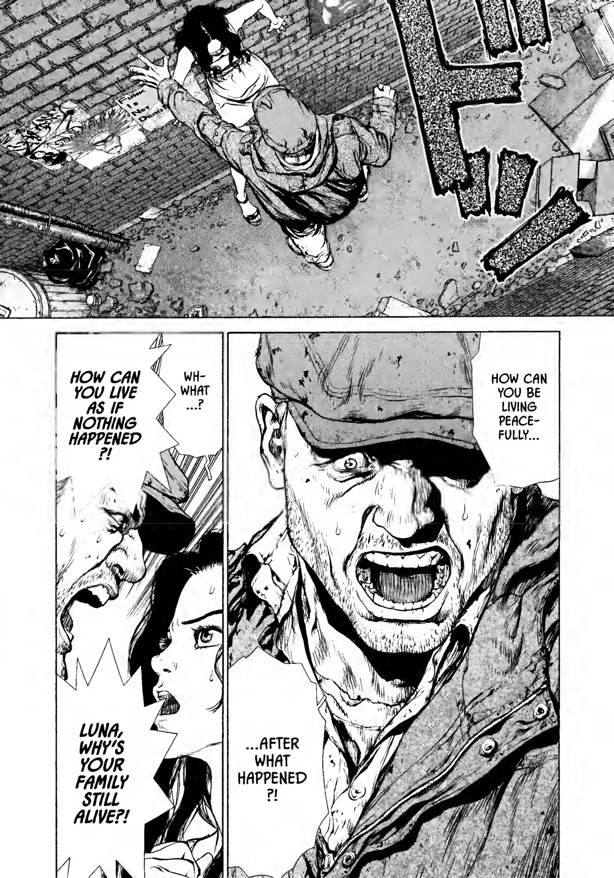

OH NO! I OVER-SLEPT!

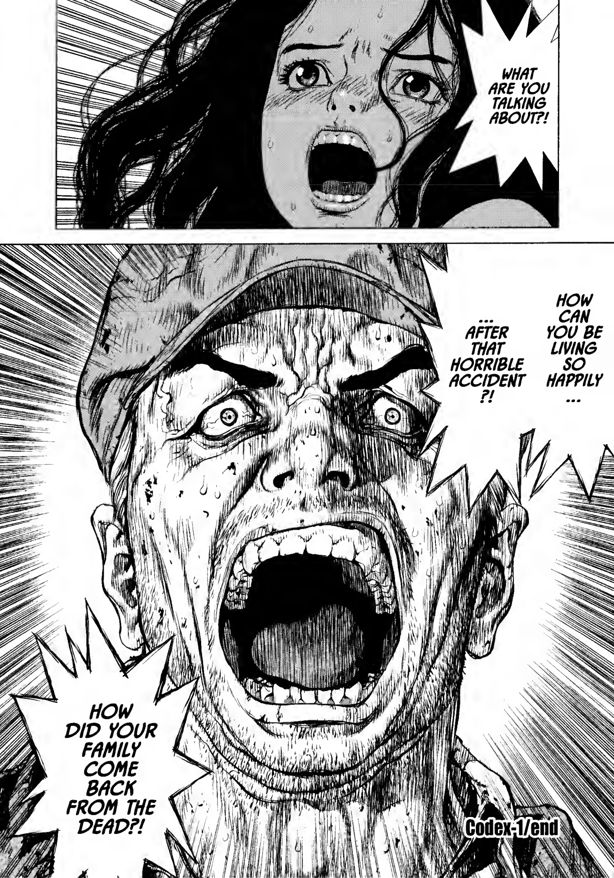

I BET ISA'S EVEN LATER THAN ME, THOUGH!
WE CAN GO TOGETHER. ♪


HUH?


CANDY ...


?!
MMF!
UMPH!
MMPH!

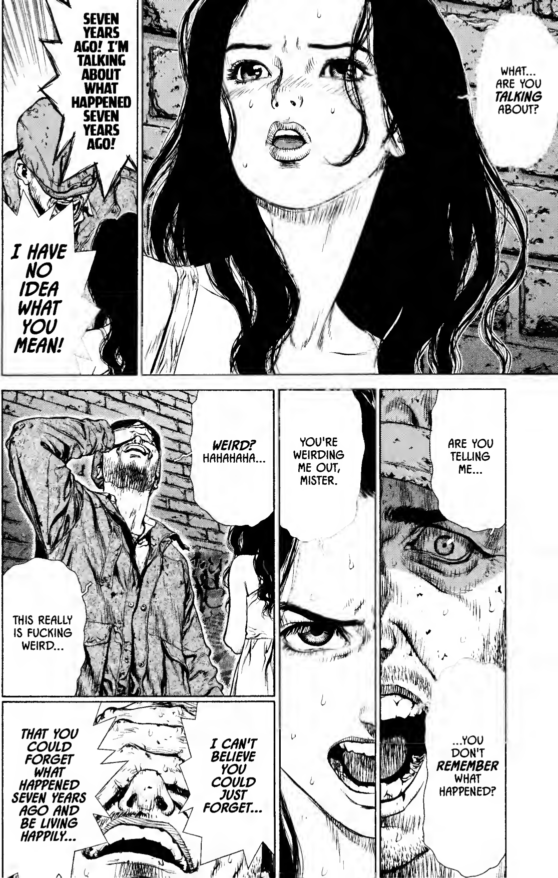

ドッ
Funk Is Not Dead!
HOW CAN YOU BE LIVING PEACEFULLY...
...AFTER WHAT HAPPENED?!
WH-WHAT...?
HOW CAN YOU LIVE AS IF NOTHING HAPPENED?!
LUNA, WHY'S YOUR FAMILY STILL ALIVE?!

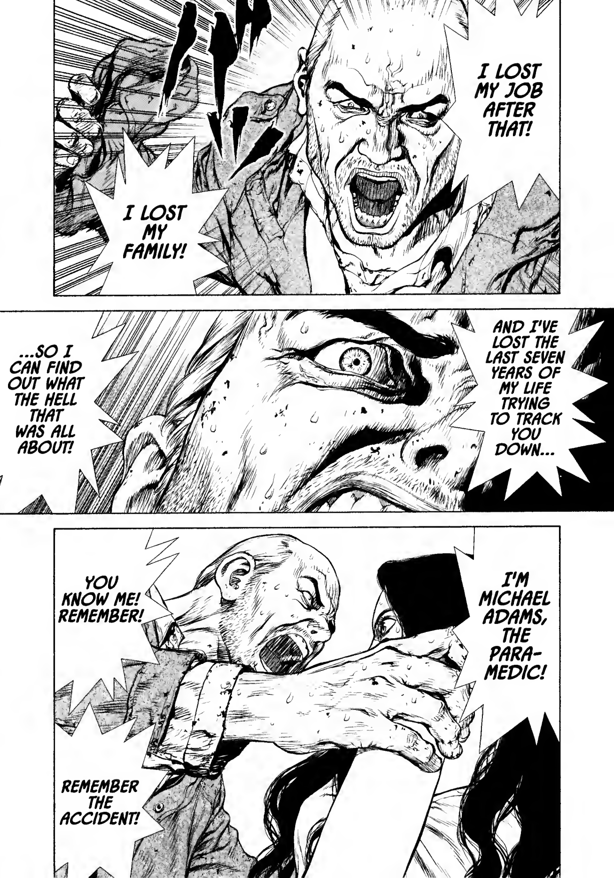

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
HOW CAN YOU BE LIVING SO HAPPILY ...
... AFTER THAT HORRIBLE ACCIDENT ?!
HOW DID YOUR FAMILY COME BACK FROM THE DEAD?!
Codex-1/end

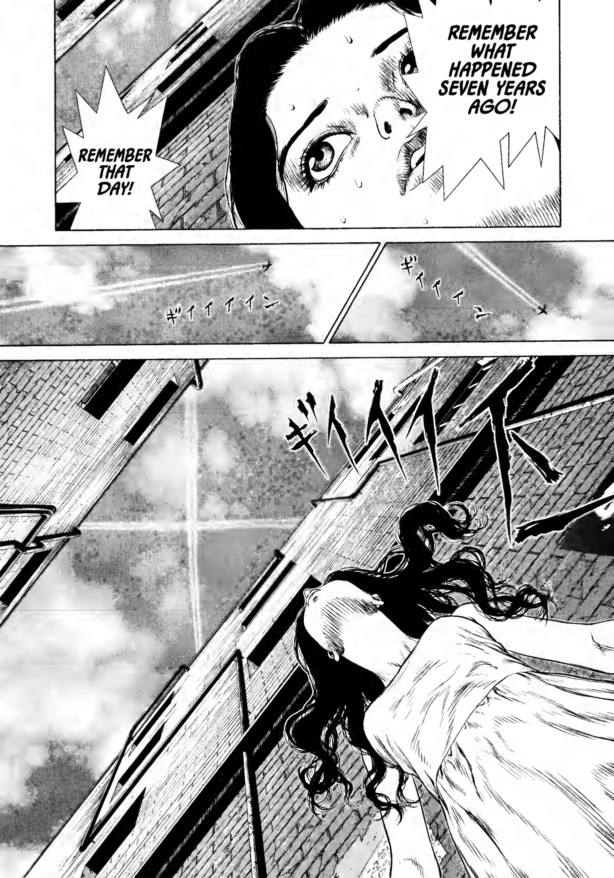
רקיע

Codex 2

The Pact


WHAT... ARE YOU *TALKING* ABOUT?
SEVEN YEARS AGO! I'M TALKING ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED SEVEN YEARS AGO!
I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU MEAN!
ARE YOU TELLING ME...
...YOU DON'T *REMEMBER* WHAT HAPPENED?
YOU'RE WEIRDING ME OUT, MISTER.
WEIRD? HAHAHAHA...
THIS REALLY IS FUCKING WEIRD...
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU COULD JUST FORGET...
THAT YOU COULD FORGET WHAT HAPPENED SEVEN YEARS AGO AND BE LIVING HAPPILY...


I LOST MY JOB AFTER THAT!
I LOST MY FAMILY!
AND I'VE LOST THE LAST SEVEN YEARS OF MY LIFE TRYING TO TRACK YOU DOWN...
...SO I CAN FIND OUT WHAT THE HELL THAT WAS ALL ABOUT!
I'M MICHAEL ADAMS, THE PARA-MEDIC!
YOU KNOW ME! REMEMBER!
REMEMBER THE ACCIDENT!


REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED SEVEN YEARS AGO!
REMEMBER THAT DAY!
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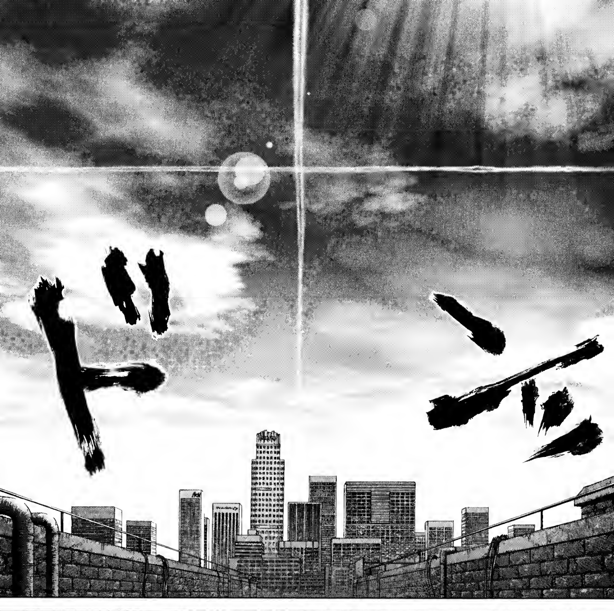
ギィイイイイン
ギイイイ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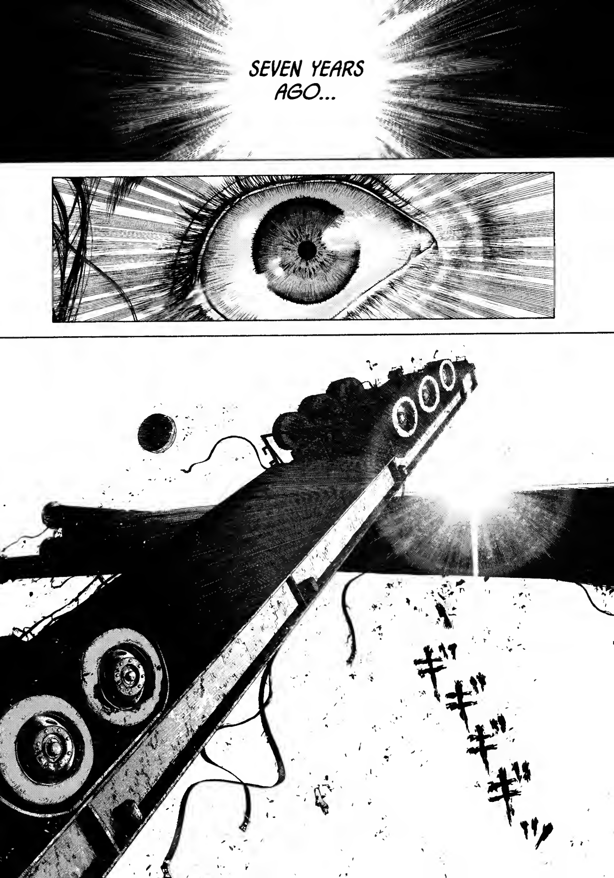
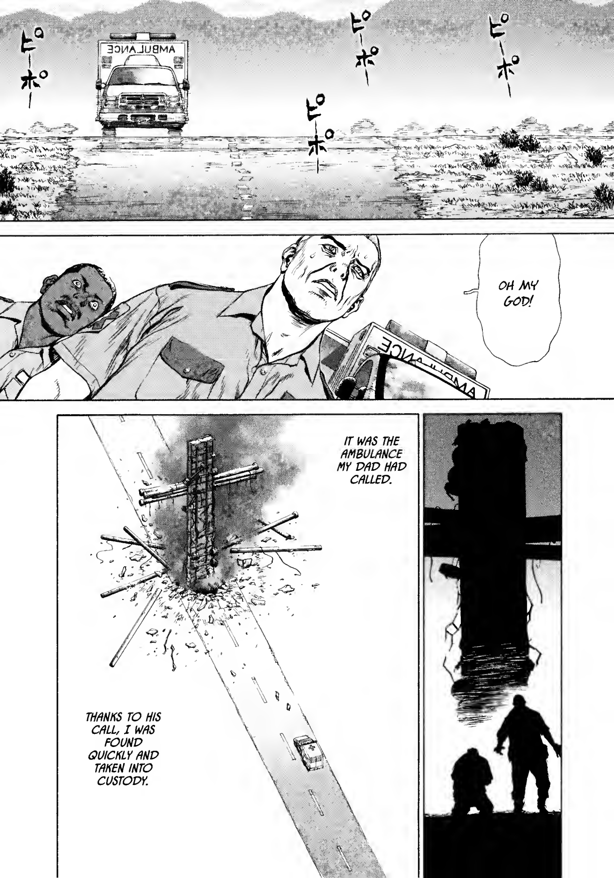
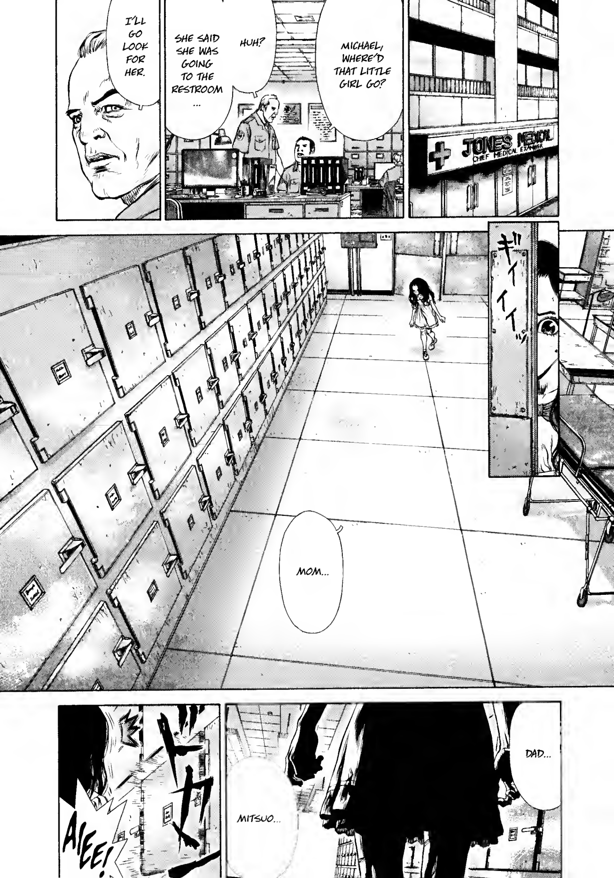
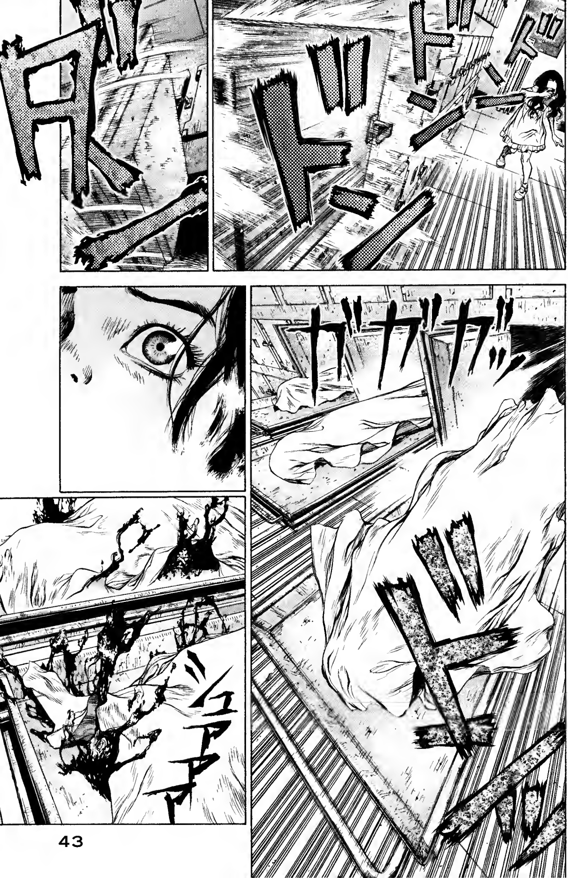
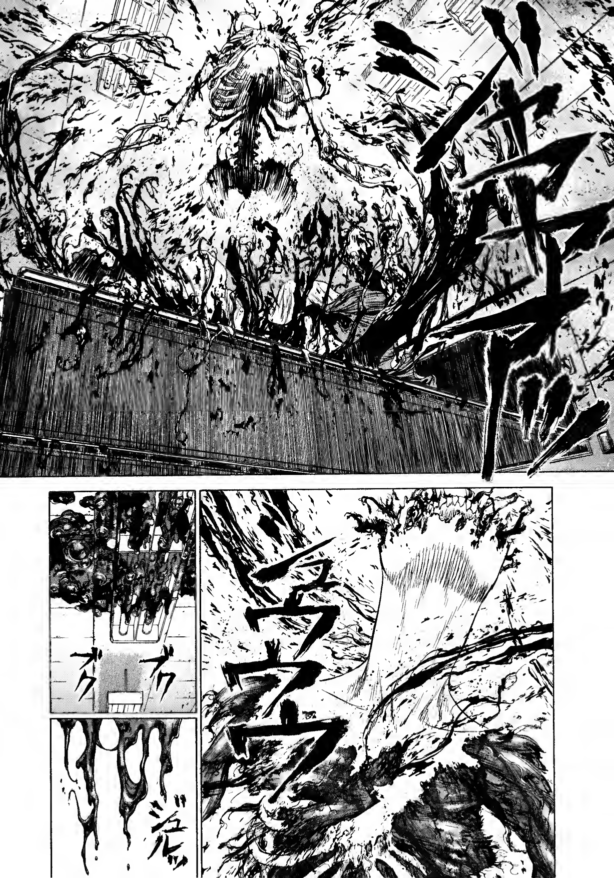
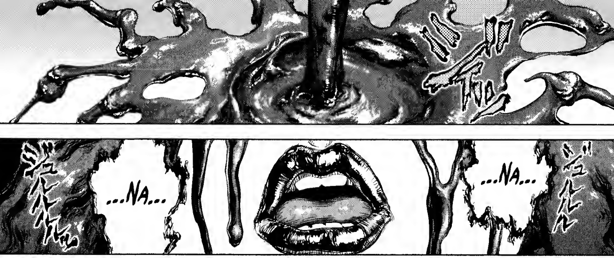

SEVEN YEARS AGO...
ギギギギッ


ピーポー
ピーポー
ピーポー
ピーポー
AMBULANCE
OH MY GOD!
IT WAS THE AMBULANCE MY DAD HAD CALLED.
THANKS TO HIS CALL, I WAS FOUND QUICKLY AND TAKEN INTO CUSTODY.

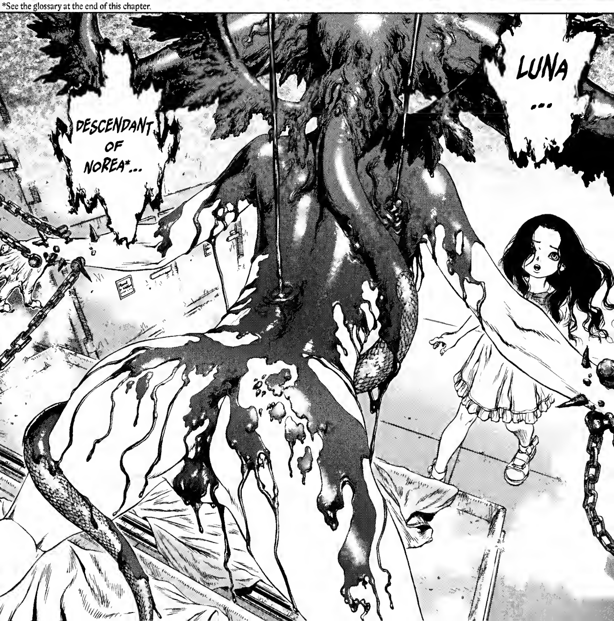

JONES MEDICAL
CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER
MICHAEL, WHERE'D THAT LITTLE GIRL GO?
HUH?
SHE SAID SHE WAS GOING TO THE RESTROOM ...
I'LL GO LOOK FOR HER.
ギイイイ…ッ
MOM...
DAD...
MITSUO...
ドカッ
AIEE!


ドドド
ドーン
ガッ!!
ガガガッ
ドドッ
シュアアア


ジキアッ
ゴク
ゴク
ウウウ
ジュルッ

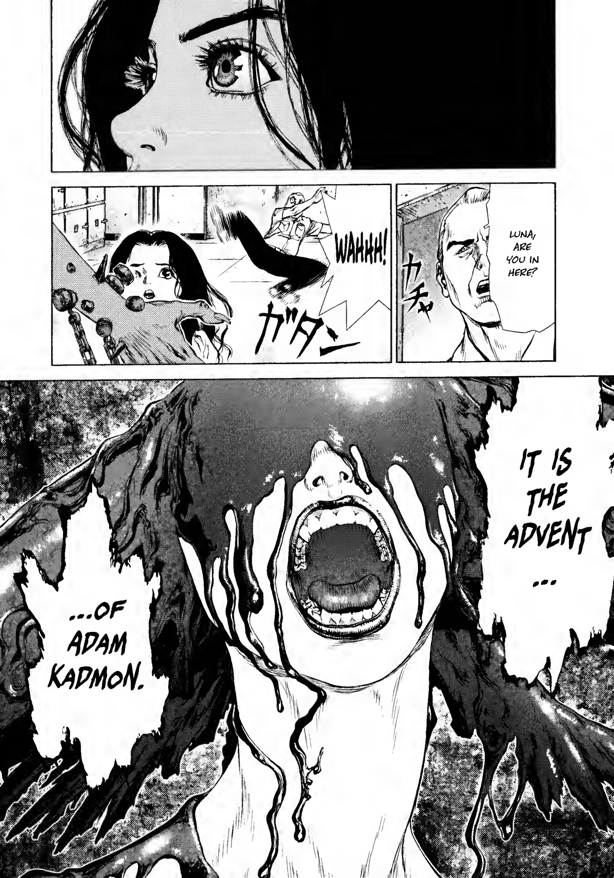


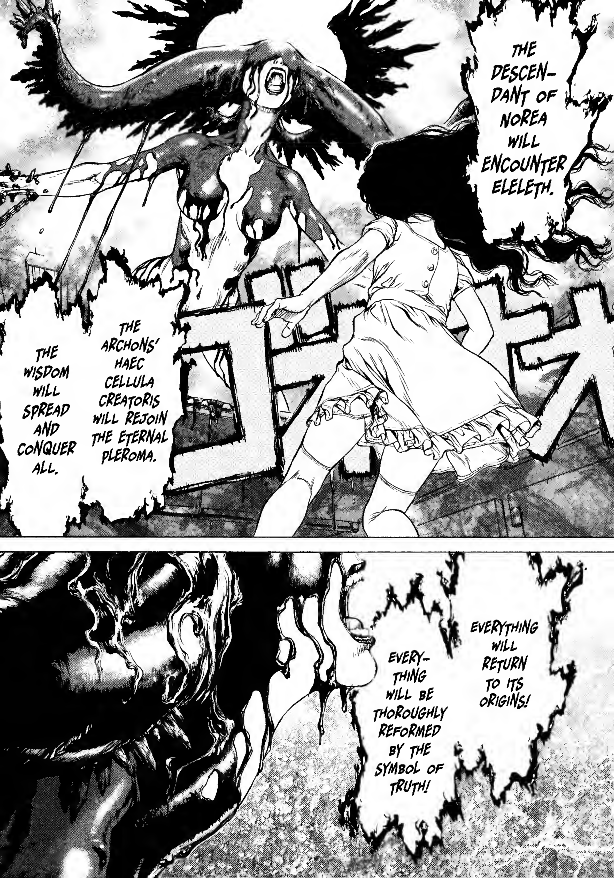
ジュルル
...NA...
...NA...
ジュルルル

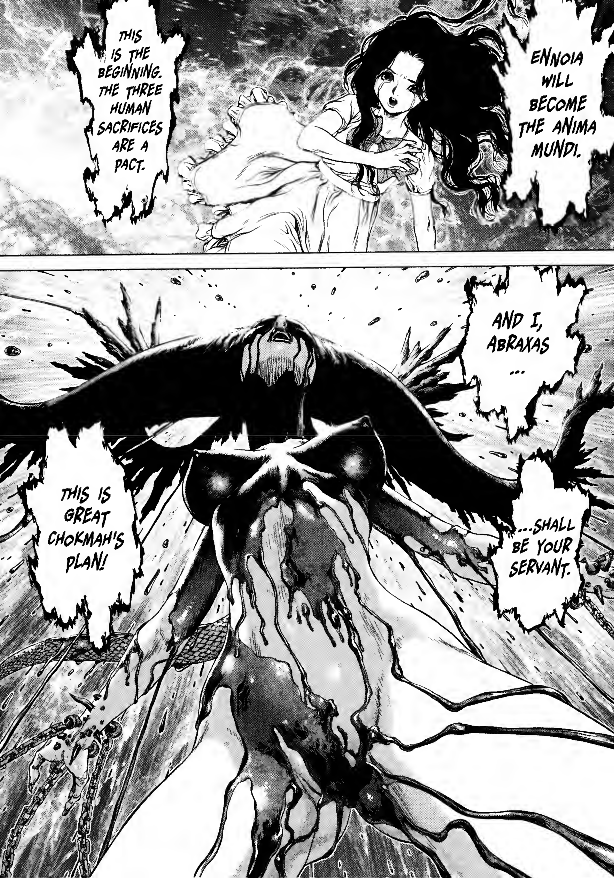


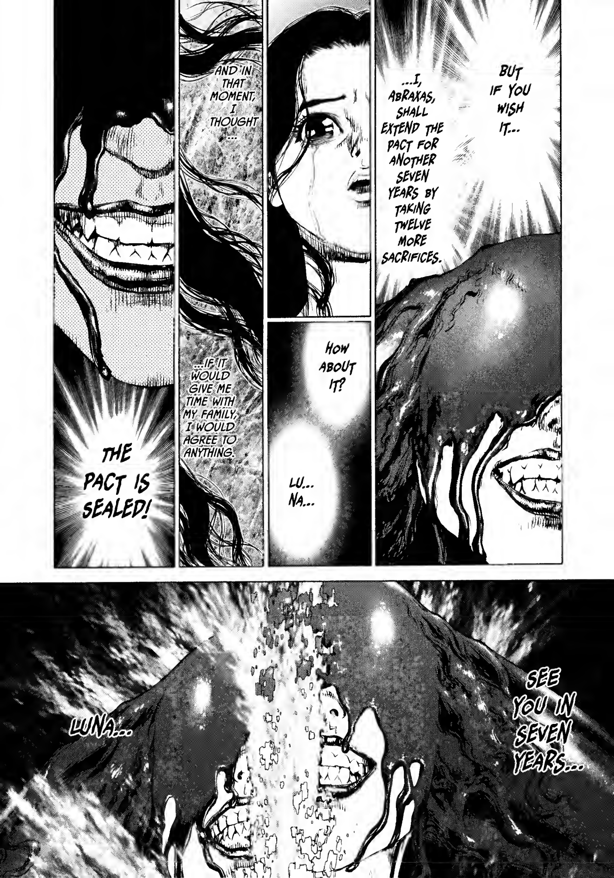
LUNA ...
DESCENDANT OF NOREA*...

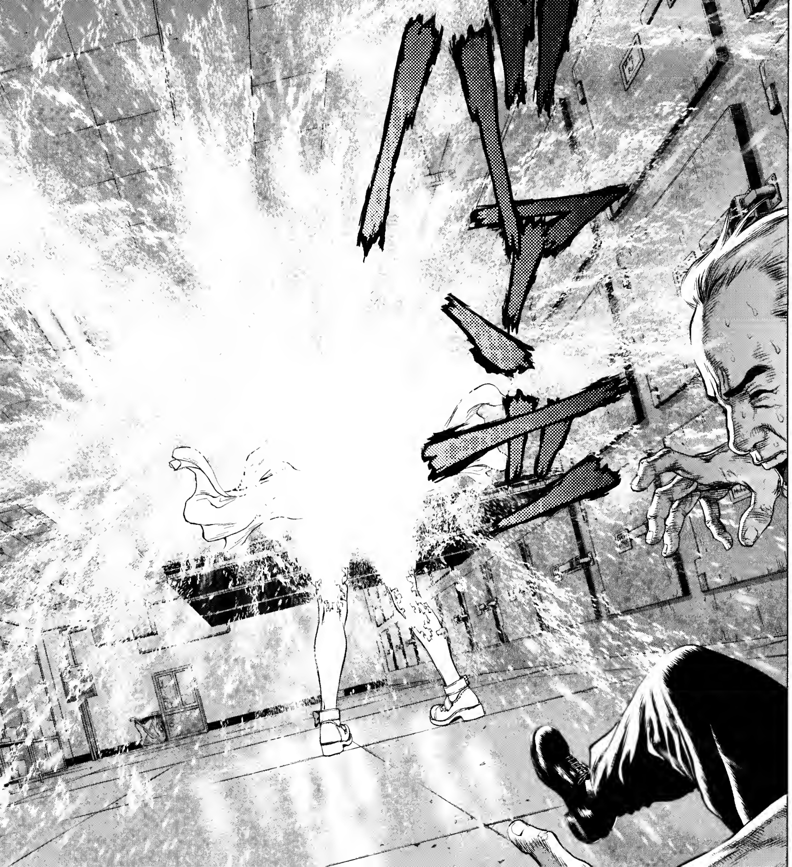
*See the glossary at the end of this chapter.

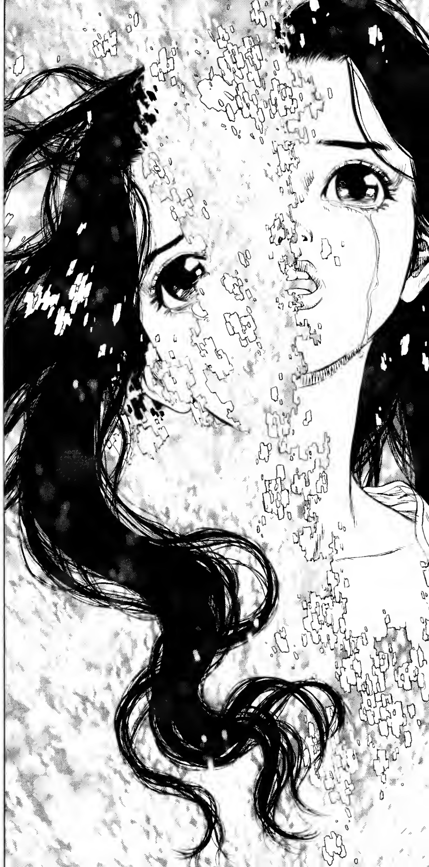

カチャ
LUNA, ARE YOU IN HERE?
WAHHH!
ガタン
IT IS THE ADVENT ...
...OF ADAM KADMON.

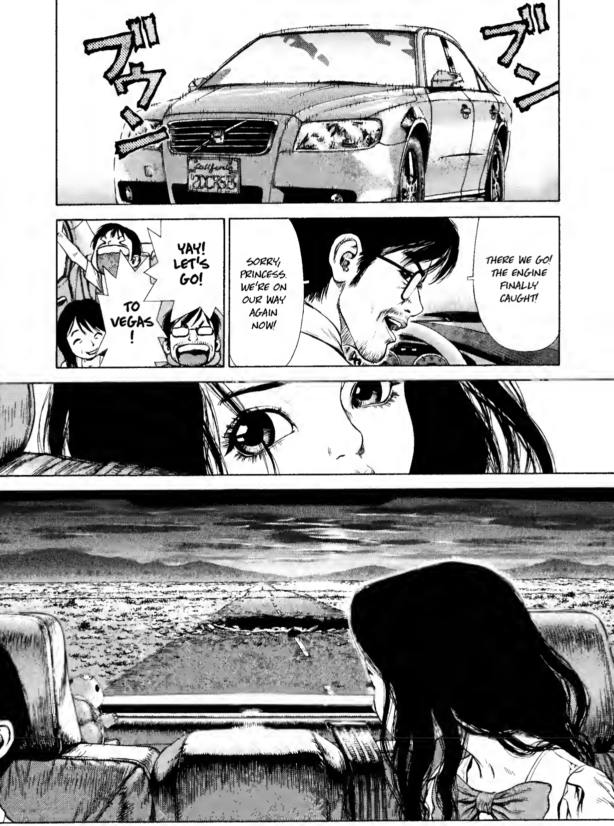

THE DESCENDANT OF NOREA WILL ENCOUNTER ELELETH.
THE ARCHONS' HAEC CELLULA CREATORIS WILL REJOIN THE ETERNAL PLEROMA.
THE WISDOM WILL SPREAD AND CONQUER ALL.
EVERYTHING WILL RETURN TO ITS ORIGINS!
EVERYTHING WILL BE THOROUGHLY REFORMED BY THE SYMBOL OF TRUTH!

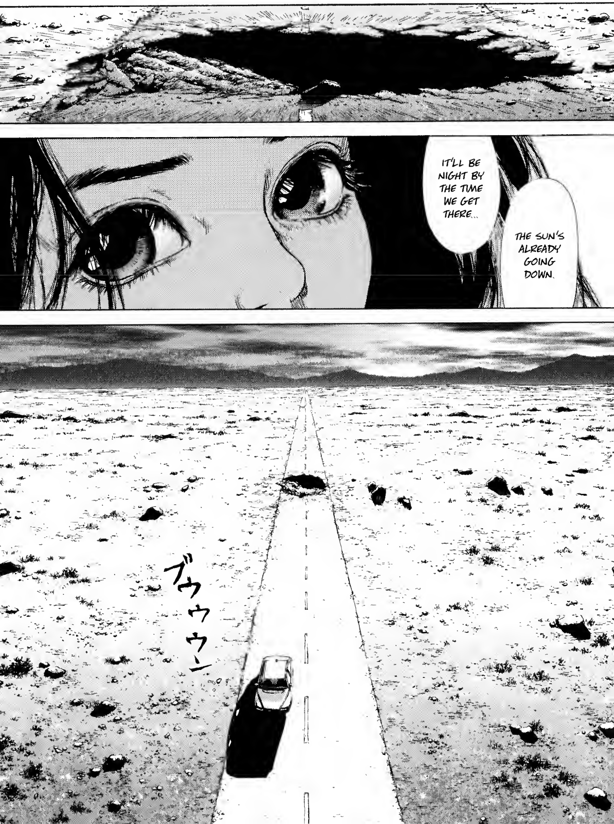

ENNOIA WILL BECOME THE ANIMA MUNDI.
THIS IS THE BEGINNING. THE THREE HUMAN SACRIFICES ARE A PACT.
AND I, ABRAXAS ...
...SHALL BE YOUR SERVANT.
THIS IS GREAT CHOKMAH'S PLAN!

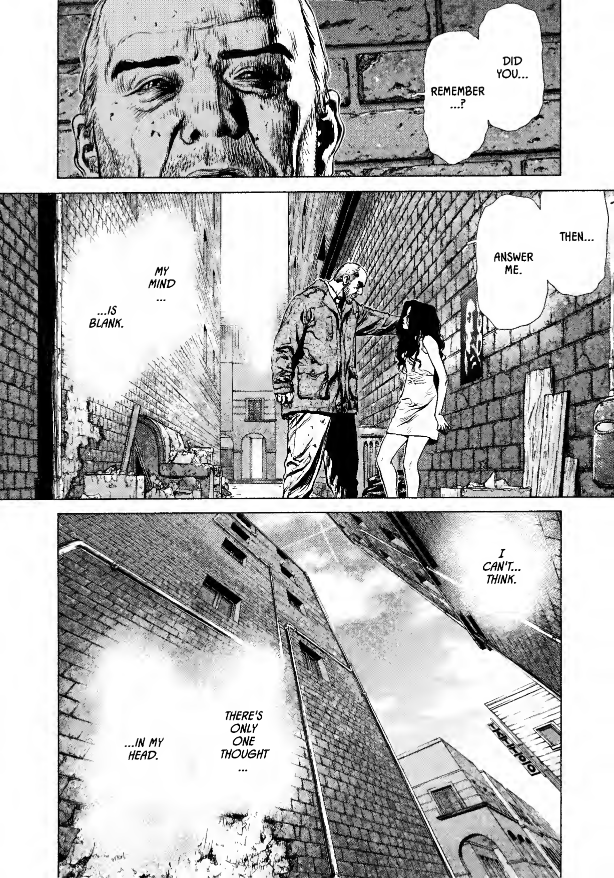

BUT IF YOU WISH IT...
...I, ABRAXAS, SHALL EXTEND THE PACT FOR ANOTHER SEVEN YEARS BY TAKING TWELVE MORE SACRIFICES.
HOW ABOUT IT?
LU... NA...
AND IN THAT MOMENT, I THOUGHT...
...IF IT WOULD GIVE ME TIME WITH MY FAMILY, I WOULD AGREE TO ANYTHING.
THE PACT IS SEALED!
SEE YOU IN SEVEN YEARS...
LUNA...

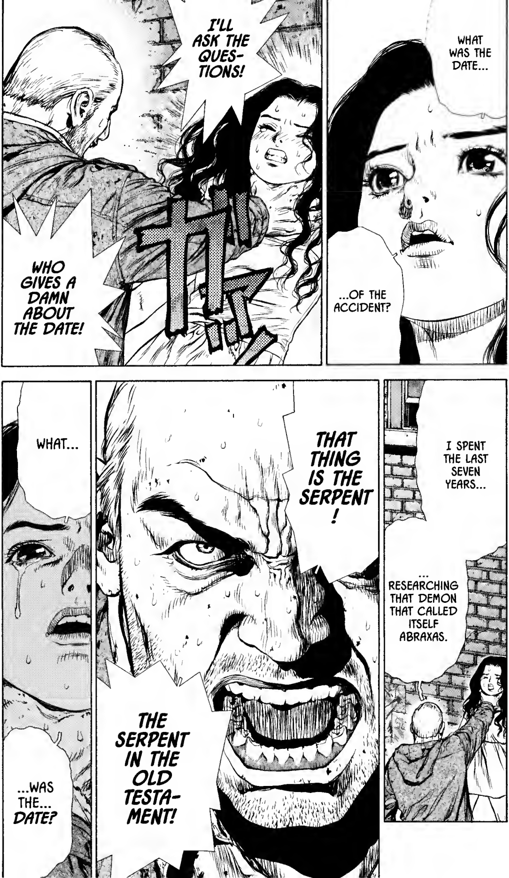


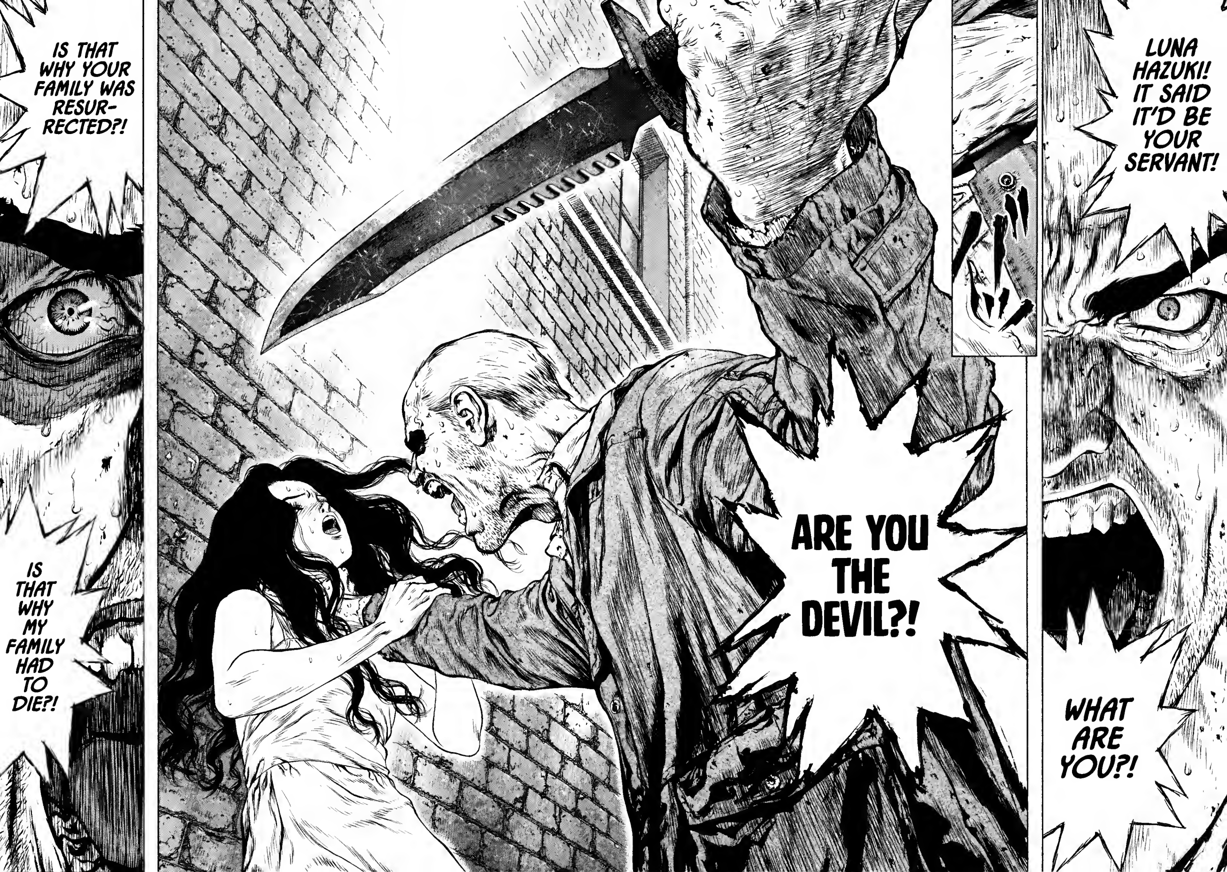



ブンー
ブウンー
California
2DCR513
THERE WE GO! THE ENGINE FINALLY CAUGHT!
SORRY, PRINCESS. WE'RE ON OUR WAY AGAIN NOW!
YAY! LET'S GO!
TO VEGAS!


THE SUN'S ALREADY GOING DOWN.
IT'LL BE NIGHT BY THE TIME WE GET THERE...
ブウウン


DID YOU... REMEMBER ...?
THEN... ANSWER ME.
MY MIND ... ...IS BLANK.
I CAN'T... THINK.
THERE'S ONLY ONE THOUGHT ...
...IN MY HEAD.


WHAT WAS THE DATE...
...OF THE ACCIDENT?
I'LL ASK THE QUESTIONS!
ガッ
WHO GIVES A DAMN ABOUT THE DATE!
I SPENT THE LAST SEVEN YEARS...
... RESEARCHING THAT DEMON THAT CALLED ITSELF ABRAXAS.
THAT THING IS THE SERPENT!
THE SERPENT IN THE OLD TESTAMENT!
WHAT...
...WAS THE... DATE?


LUNA HAZUKI! IT SAID IT'D BE YOUR SERVANT!
WHAT ARE YOU?!
ARE YOU THE DEVIL?!
IS THAT WHY YOUR FAMILY WAS RESURRECTED?!
IS THAT WHY MY FAMILY HAD TO DIE?!

About
GNOSTICISM

In order to fully understand and appreciate *Raqiya*'s mythology, it is essential to learn about Gnosticism, the religious and philosophical movement the manga's central premise is based upon. Developed centuries before the Christian era, Gnosticism held that salvation of the soul could be achieved by attaining a deep, mystic, and divine knowledge called **gnosis** (Greek for "knowledge"). After rising to prominence in the Roman world during the 2nd-3rd century AD, the Christian form of Gnosticism was met with opposition from orthodox religious officials who saw their authority threatened, which ultimately led to it being branded as heretical by the early church. Gnostic scriptures, like all other non-canonical texts, were thus confiscated and burnt, except for a handful that was hidden away to keep them safe. Some of those manuscripts were discovered near Nag Hammadi, Egypt, in 1945. Their study has greatly enhanced the understanding of Gnosticism.

What the texts of the **Nag Hammadi Library** reveal is that Gnosticism was not simply an early branch of Christianity, but a complex belief system with its own myths, rituals, and theologies, most of which very different to anything found in the Bible. According to Gnostics, the world as we know it was created by an intermediary being, the so-called **Demiurge**, rather than directly by the True God. They believed all human souls originally existed in a spiritual realm of light, the **pleroma**, until they were imprisoned by the Demiurge in physical bodies on the earth. As a result, the material world and everything in it were viewed by Gnostics as intrinsically corrupt if not evil. To them, salvation came from liberation of the soul from the body, which could only happen through gnosis. Many Gnostics recognized the key to awaken this divine knowledge in the teachings of Jesus Christ, whom they regarded as a Messenger of Light sent by the True God to bring gnosis to Earth.

Perhaps the most interesting difference between Gnostic and Christian beliefs lies in the Genesis creation narrative. In the Gnostic version, everything began with one ultimate and transcendent God, also known as the Monad, the All-Father, or simply the One. While this True God did not actually create anything, He (or It) could "emanate" or bring forth certain aspects of Himself. These personified emanations are called **aeons**. The first aeon to emanate from God was **Ennoia** (Greek for "thought"), alternatively called Barbelo, His feminine counter-part. From her, a series of aeons was conceived, often in male-female pairings. Together with the Godhead, they formed the pleroma, the Fullness of God.

The most important aeon in Gnostic mythology is **Sophia** (Greek for "wisdom"), for she played a pivotal role in the creation of the physical world. There are differing accounts about how this cataclysmic event came about. The most common one holds that Sophia, the final and lowest emanation of God, wished to bring forth a being from herself in a misguided attempt to emulate the All-Father. However, she did so without His consent or her male partner's. As a result, Sophia only spawned an ugly, imperfect creature named **Yaldabaoth**—a lion-faced serpent with eyes of fire. He was the Demiurge.

Ashamed and terrified of what she had done, Sophia cast her offspring outside the pleroma and hid it within a thick cloud. Yaldabaoth, however, managed to steal enough power from his mother to prevent her from escaping the cloud. He proceeded to create a demonic world of his own—the world of matter. To help him rule over this world, he further created twelve beings like him, called **archons**. Ignorant of any power greater than him, Yaldabaoth declared that he was the only god. It was in that moment that Sophia realized her mistake and cried out to the All-Father for forgiveness.

In response, the All-Father sent Sophia's male partner, the aeon **Christ**, to bring her back into the Fullness. Christ then took the form of the human Jesus, in order to be able to teach mankind how to achieve gnosis, so that they too may rescue themselves from the physical world and return to the eternal pleroma. It is the ultimate end of the gnosis, the undoing of the material existence and the reunification of the human souls with the One, that *Raqiya*'s story is built around.

NEXT PAGE: *Glossary*

GLOSSARY

Below is a list of important Gnostic (and Gnostic-related) terms
that appeared in the first two chapters of *Raqiya*.

Abraxas: An entity with many different roles in Gnostic and other mystic systems. In the texts of the Nag Hammadi Library, Abraxas is described as a low-level aeon who worked in tandem with the Great Angel Eleleth and Sophia to rectify the error brought on by the birth of the Demiurge and the creation of the material world. In other accounts, Abraxas is another name given to the redeemed archon Sabaoth, an offspring of the Demiurge who would eventually rebel against his father in a great war and side with his grandmother Sophia. Abraxas frequently appears on Gnostic amulets, there depicted as a being with the head of a rooster, the torso of a man, and legs fashioned as serpents.

Adam Kadmon: According to the Jewish Kabbalah, the ideal spiritual form (archetype) of man. The Gnostic equivalent is called Adamas or Anthropos, who is an actual aeonic entity conceived by the Supreme God after His own image.

Anima Mundi: The World Soul. The spiritual connection between all living beings on the planet. In Gnostic teachings, the *anima mundi* represents all the scattered sparks of Sophia's divine light that remained on Earth after she was lifted back into the pleroma.

Archons: The demonic rulers of the physical plane. Created by the Demiurge (who is the Chief Archon) to assist him, the archons endeavor to keep the humans ignorant of the gnosis to maintain control over them. Incidentally, the number of the first archons, twelve, also coincides with the number of sacrifices Abraxas demands from Luna.

Chokmah: In the Kabbalah, Chokmah (Hebrew for "wisdom") is the second highest sephirah (similar to the Gnostic aeon) on the Tree of Life. In Gnostic context, the name might refer to Achamoth, the lower aspect of Sophia who was left in the material chaos after the higher form returned to the pleroma, or even Sophia herself.

Codex: The earliest type of manuscript in the form of a modern book (i.e., a collection of pages stitched together along one side), the codex replaced earlier rolls of papyrus. The Nag Hammadi Library was written in codices.

Eleleth: One of the four Great Angels (also called Luminaries or Light Aeons) conceived to assist the arch-aeon Christ.

Ennoia: The first aeon to emanate from the One. She was His "first thought." Together they constituted the Source, from which all other aeons were emitted. Ennoia and Sophia should not be seen as separate entities, but as two levels and expressions of the same feminine divine power. They are known to have various human reincarnations, the two most prominent ones in Gnostic tradition being Eve and her daughter Norea. Following this logic, Luna would also be a reincarnation of Ennoia.

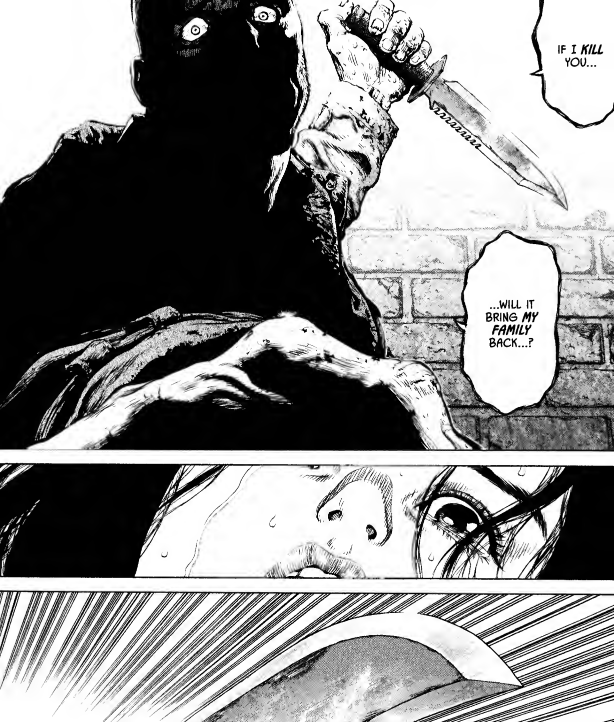
Gospel of Thomas: One of the most cited texts from the Nag Hammadi Library, the *Gospel of Thomas* consists of over 100 sayings attributed to Jesus. It is not part of the New Testament Canon and thus belongs to the apocrypha. Unlike the Canonical Gospels, *Thomas* never mentions Jesus' crucifixion or resurrection, instead chooses to focus on his role as a spiritual guide who helps mankind find salvation through his teachings. In saying 70, as cited at the manga's beginning, Jesus intimates what might be considered the main tenet of Gnosticism: it is within us where the key to salvation lies; if we can bring forth this hidden knowledge it will set us free.

Haec Cellula Creatoris: Lit. "This prison cell made by the Creator." A phrase coined by the radical bishop Marcion of Sinope (ca. 85-160) to describe the material universe. He identified the god of the Old Testament as the Demiurge—an ignorant, jealous and wrathful being who created the physical world as a prison to enslave mankind. It should be noted that Marcion's extreme views are generally not aligned with the Gnostic mainstream and that his affiliation with Gnosticism itself remains highly contested.

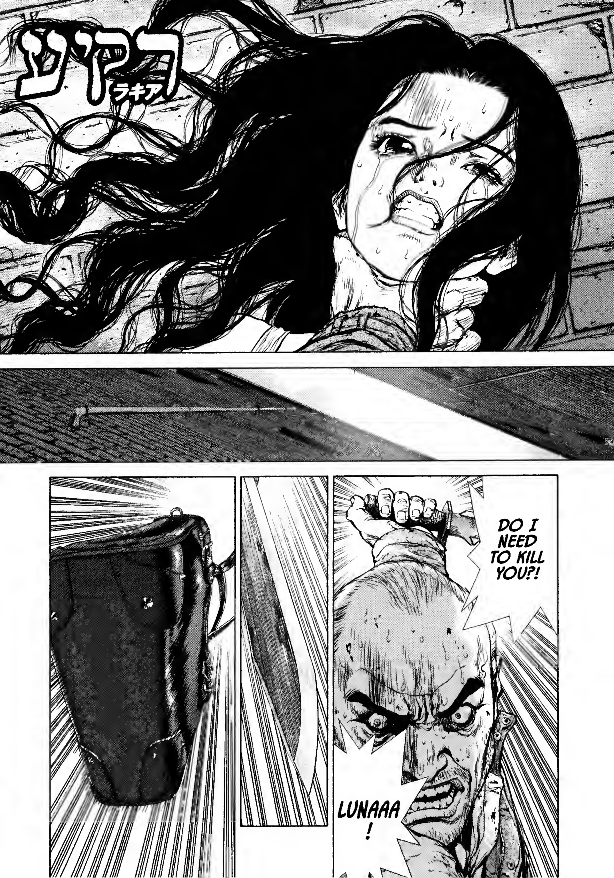
Nag Hammadi Library: A collection of Gnostic manuscripts discovered near the Egyptian town Nag Hammadi in 1945. As the only surviving documents written by Gnostics themselves, they are commonly considered the most significant source of information about Early Christianity and Gnosticism besides the Dead Sea Scrolls. Among the most well-known texts are the *Gospel of Thomas*, the *Apocryphon of John*, and the *Hypostasis of the Archons*. The latter two contain the Gnostic retelling of the Genesis.

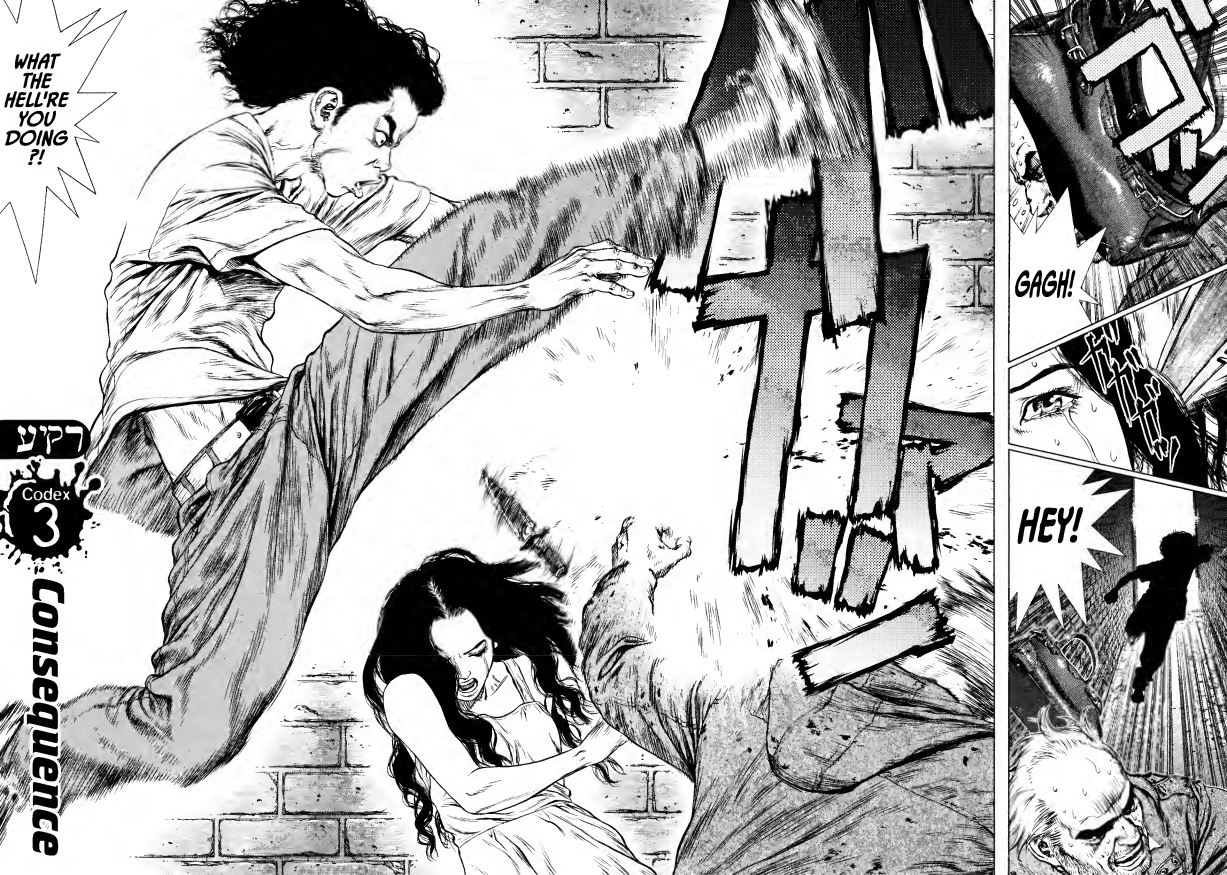
Norea: The daughter of Adam and Eve and a reincarnation of Ennoia/Sophia. As the Demiurge and his archons sensed that she possessed power greater than them, they tried to pursue and rape her. When Norea called for help, the Great Angel Eleleth descended and chased the archons away. He then told her the story of her divine origin and prophesied the end of the Demiurge's rule and the return of all mankind's souls to the pleroma. Could Luna's foretold encounter with Eleleth signal the advent of this event?

Pleroma: The Gnostic heaven where all the emanations of God reside. The human spirit is said to have its origin in the pleroma.


IF I *KILL* YOU...
...WILL IT BRING *MY FAMILY* BACK...?

Codex-2/end


רקיע
ラキア
DO I NEED TO KILL YOU?!
LUNAAA!

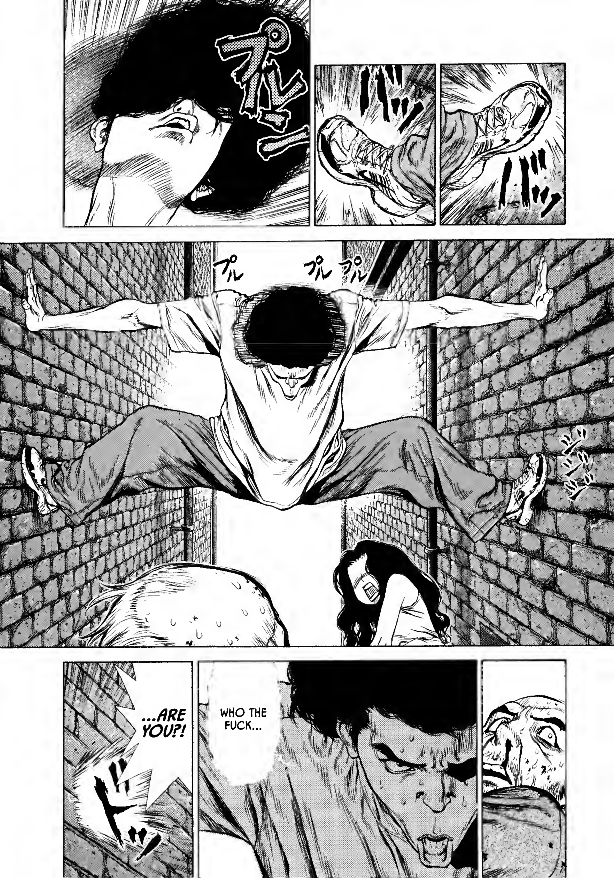


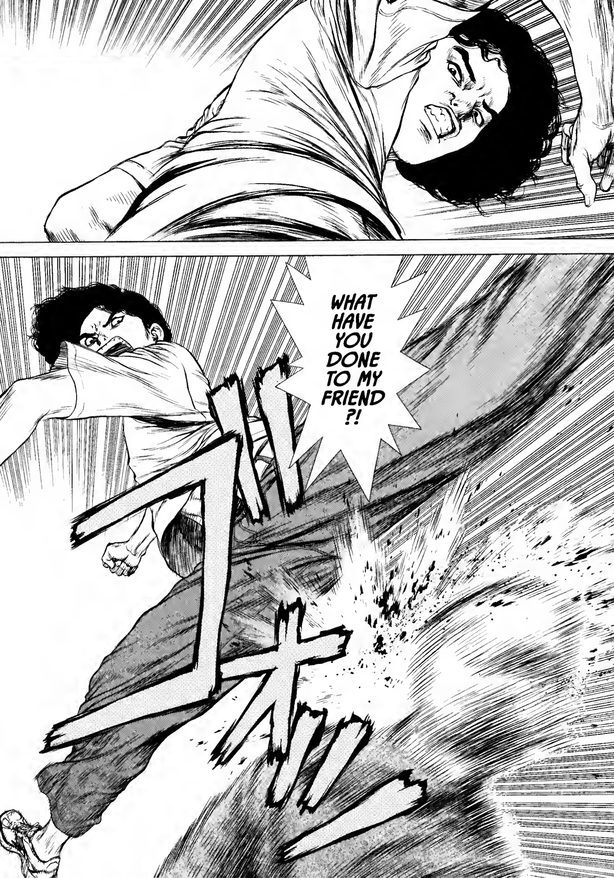
רקיע

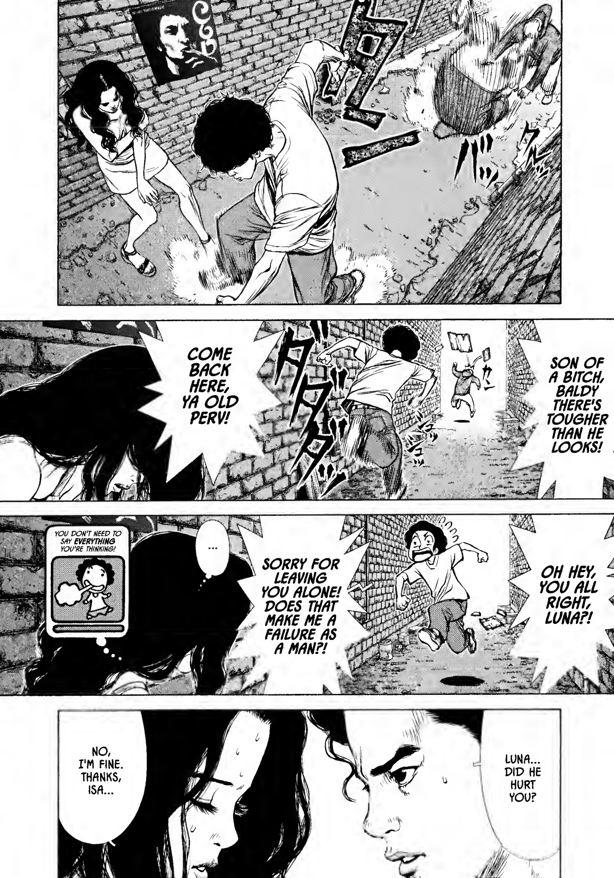
Codex 3

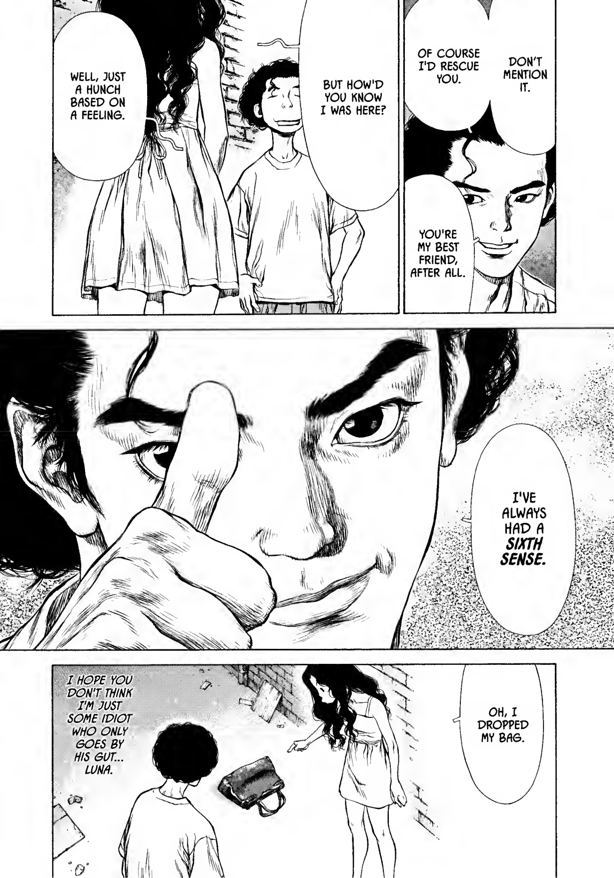
Consequence

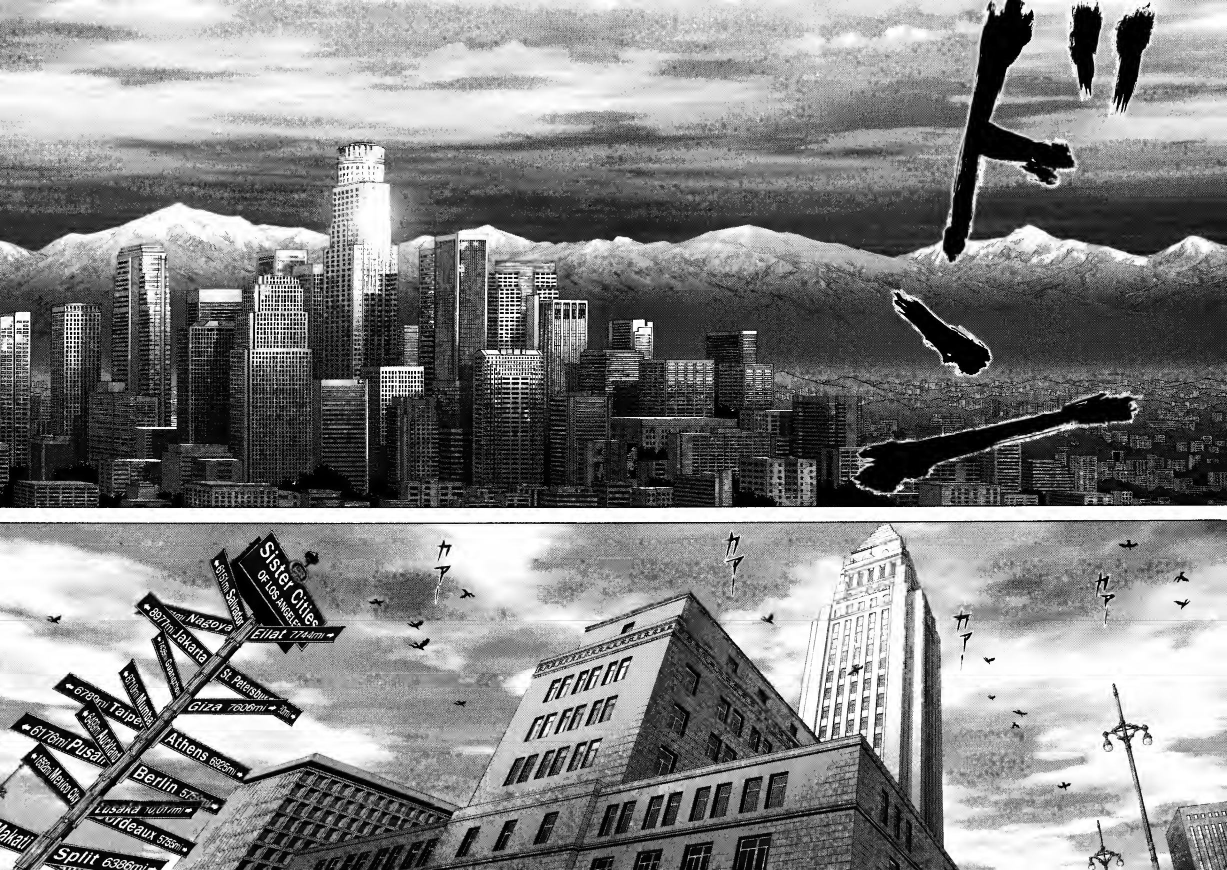
GAGH!
HEY!
WHAT THE HELL'RE YOU DOING ?!

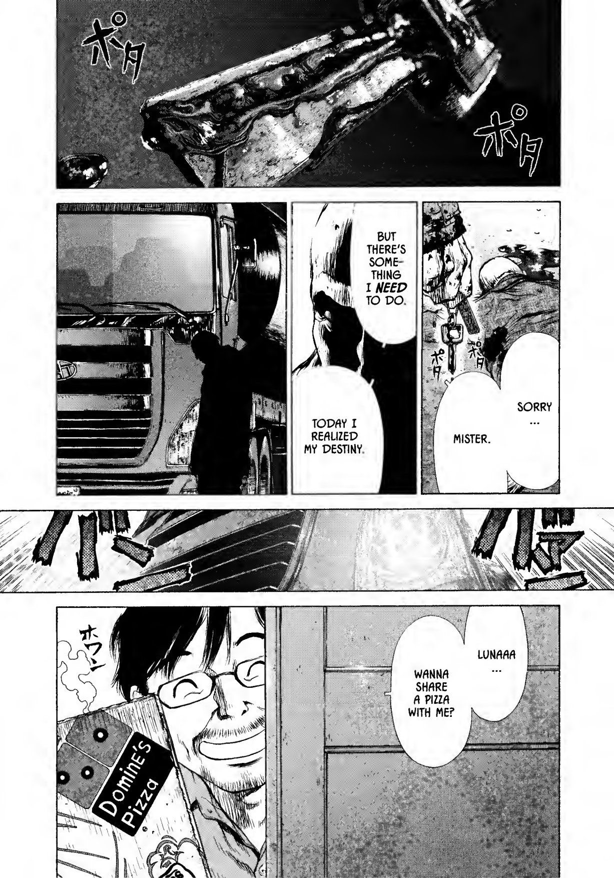

バッ
バッ
プルレー
プル プル プル
ジジジ
WHO THE FUCK...
...ARE YOU?!
ドッ

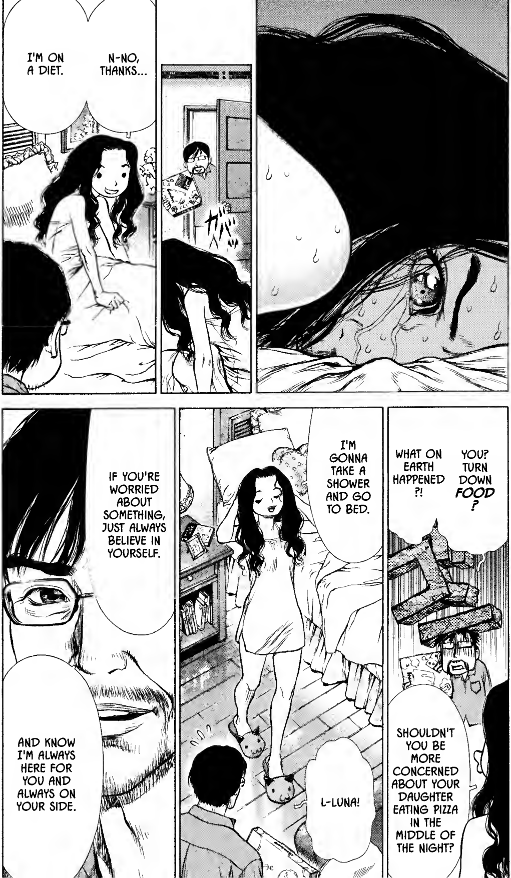

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO MY FRIEND?!
ゴキッ

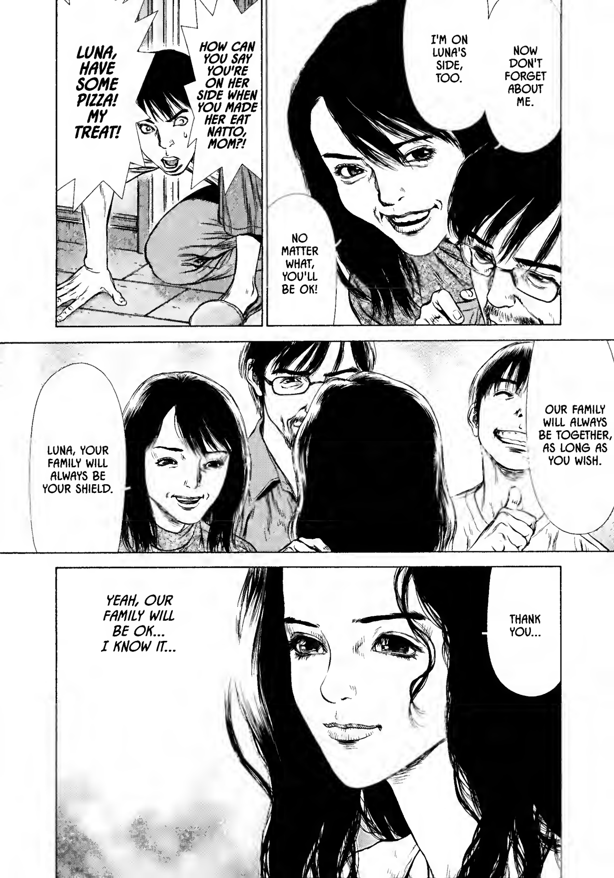

ヴン
バッ
SON OF A BITCH, BALDY THERE'S TOUGHER THAN HE LOOKS!
ダダダッ
COME BACK HERE, YA OLD PERV!
OH HEY, YOU ALL RIGHT, LUNA?!
SORRY FOR LEAVING YOU ALONE! DOES THAT MAKE ME A FAILURE AS A MAN?!
...
YOU DON'T NEED TO SAY EVERYTHING YOU'RE THINKING!
LUNA... DID HE HURT YOU?
NO, I'M FINE. THANKS, ISA...

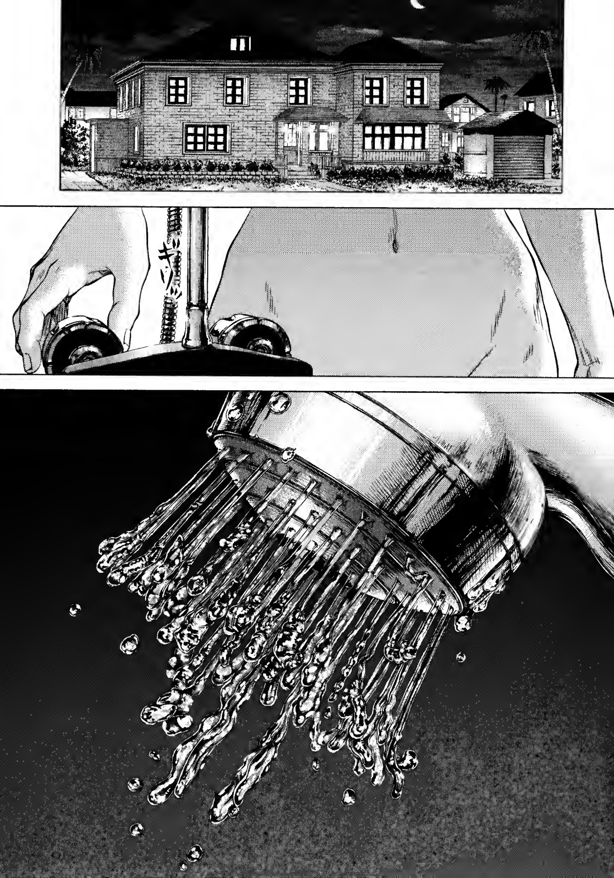

DON'T MENTION IT.
OF COURSE I'D RESCUE YOU.
YOU'RE MY BEST FRIEND, AFTER ALL.
BUT HOW'D YOU KNOW I WAS HERE?
WELL, JUST A HUNCH BASED ON A FEELING.
I'VE ALWAYS HAD A ***SIXTH SENSE.***
OH, I DROPPED MY BAG.
I HOPE YOU DON'T THINK I'M JUST SOME IDIOT WHO ONLY GOES BY HIS GUT... LUNA.


ド
カァ
カァ
カァ
カァ
Sister Cities
OF LOS ANGELES
6151mi Salvador
Nagoya
Eilat 7744mi
8977mi Jakarta
7436mi Guangzhou
St. Petersburg
8710mi Mumbai
6789mi Taipei
Giza 7606mi
20mi
6499mi Auckland
6176mi Pusan
Athens 6925mi
1652mi Mexico City
Berlin 57
Lusaka 10,017mi
Bordeaux 5755mi
Makati
Split 6386mi

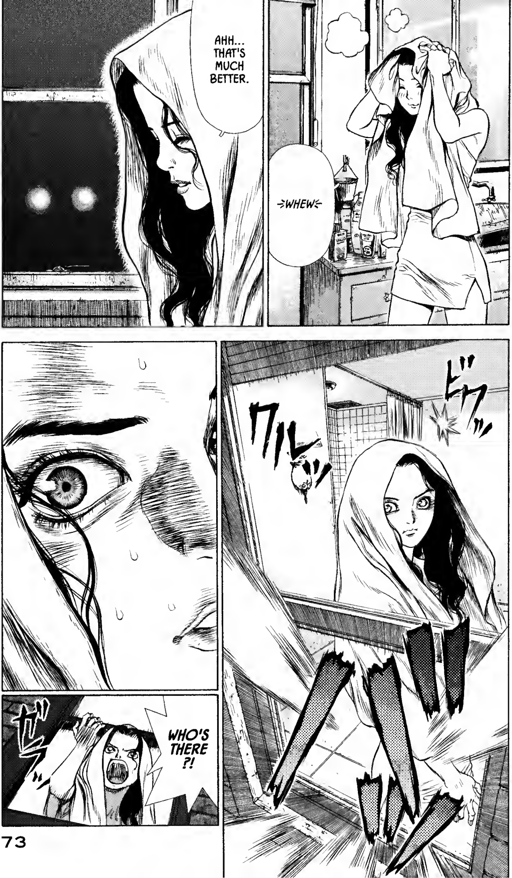

ポタ
ポタ
SORRY ... MISTER.
ポタ
ポタ
BUT THERE'S SOMETHING I *NEED* TO DO.
TODAY I REALIZED MY DESTINY.
LUNAAA ... WANNA SHARE A PIZZA WITH ME?
ホワン
Domine's Pizza

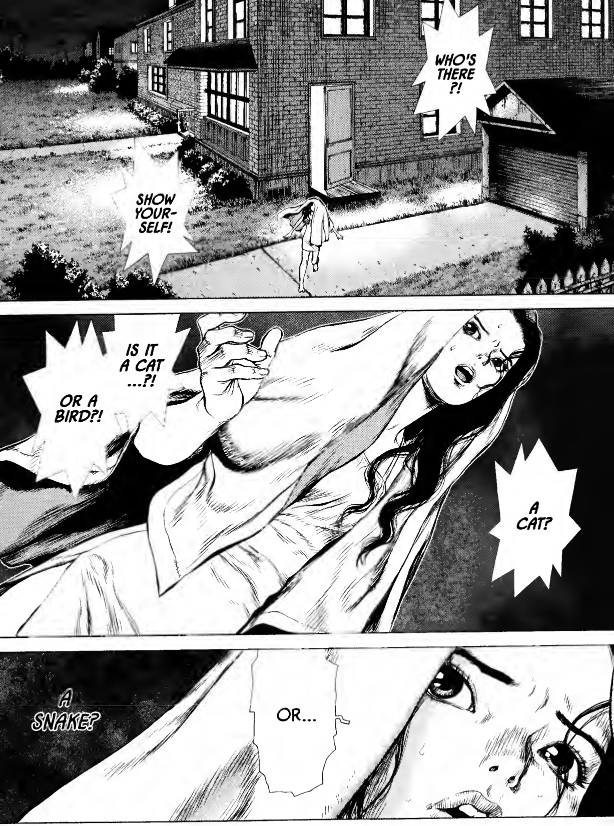

ガバッ
N-NO, THANKS...
I'M ON A DIET.
YOU? TURN DOWN *FOOD*?
WHAT ON EARTH HAPPENED?!
SHOULDN'T YOU BE MORE CONCERNED ABOUT YOUR DAUGHTER EATING PIZZA IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT?
I'M GONNA TAKE A SHOWER AND GO TO BED.
L-LUNA!
IF YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT SOMETHING, JUST ALWAYS BELIEVE IN YOURSELF.
AND KNOW I'M ALWAYS HERE FOR YOU AND ALWAYS ON YOUR SIDE.

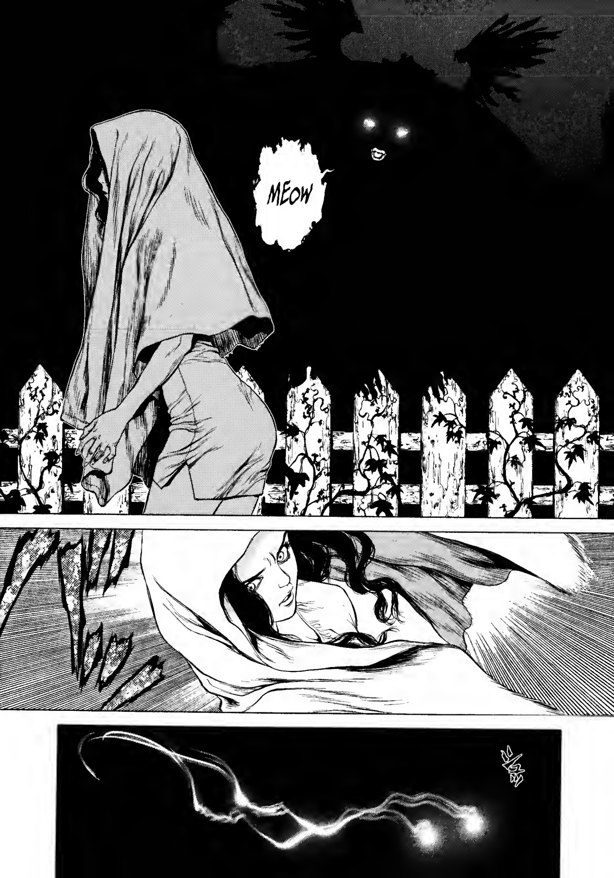

NOW DON'T FORGET ABOUT ME.
I'M ON LUNA'S SIDE, TOO.
NO MATTER WHAT, YOU'LL BE OK!
HOW CAN YOU SAY YOU'RE ON HER SIDE WHEN YOU MADE HER EAT NATTO, MOM?!
LUNA, HAVE SOME PIZZA! MY TREAT!
OUR FAMILY WILL ALWAYS BE TOGETHER, AS LONG AS YOU WISH.
LUNA, YOUR FAMILY WILL ALWAYS BE YOUR SHIELD.
THANK YOU...
YEAH, OUR FAMILY WILL BE OK... I KNOW IT...

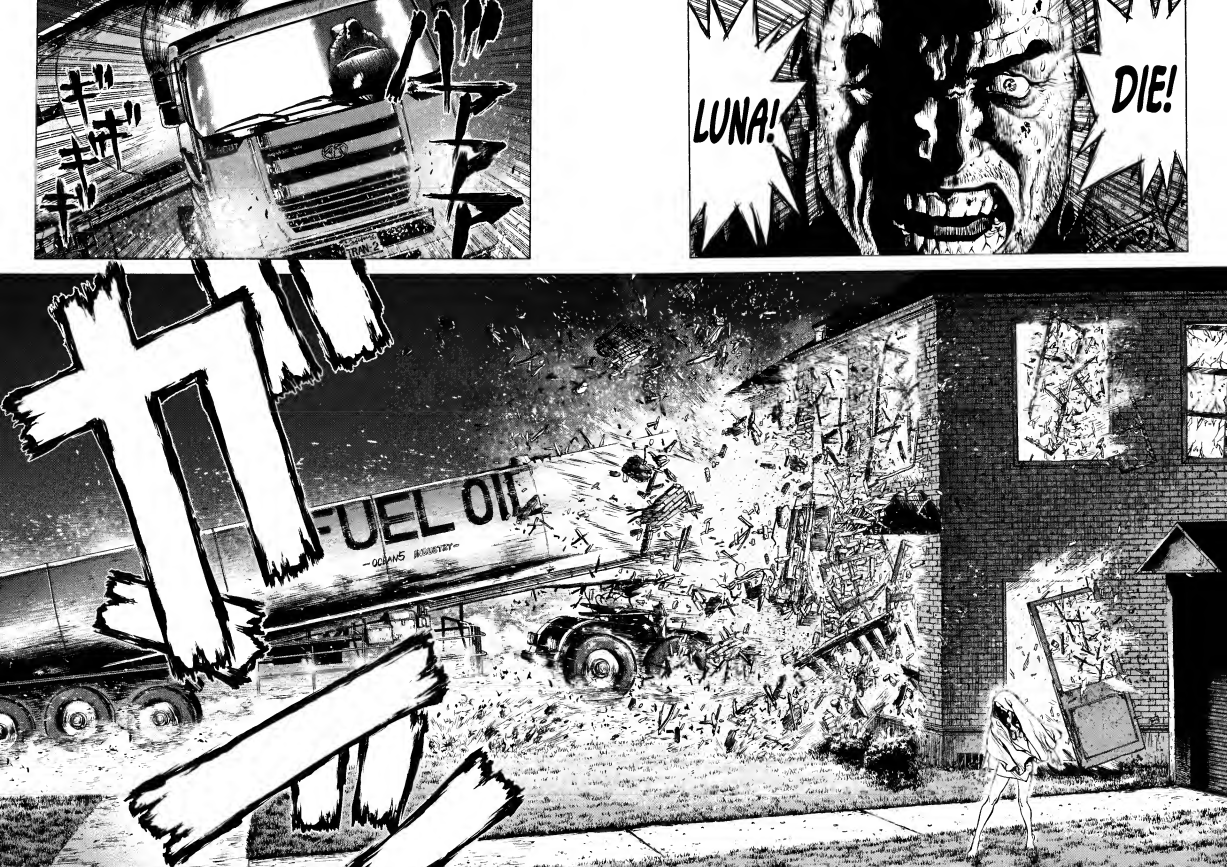

ギリッ

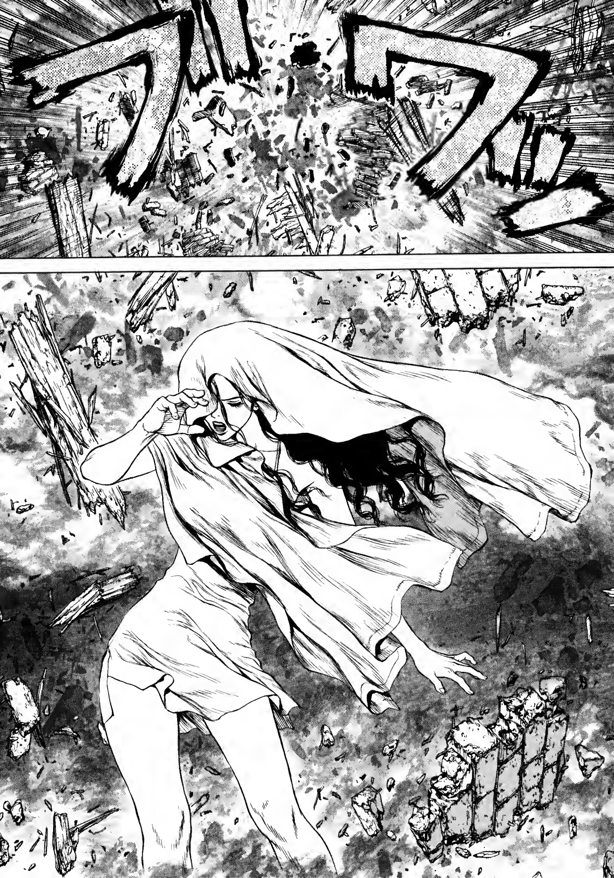
ザァアアアアア
ザァアアア

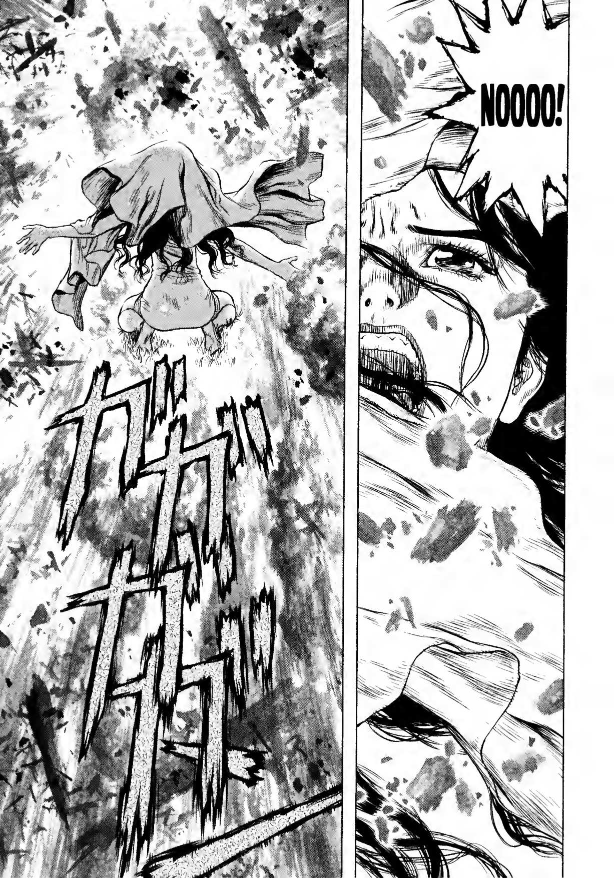

⇉WHEW⇇
AHH... THAT'S MUCH BETTER.
ビクッ
ワレッ
WHO'S THERE ?!
ザッ

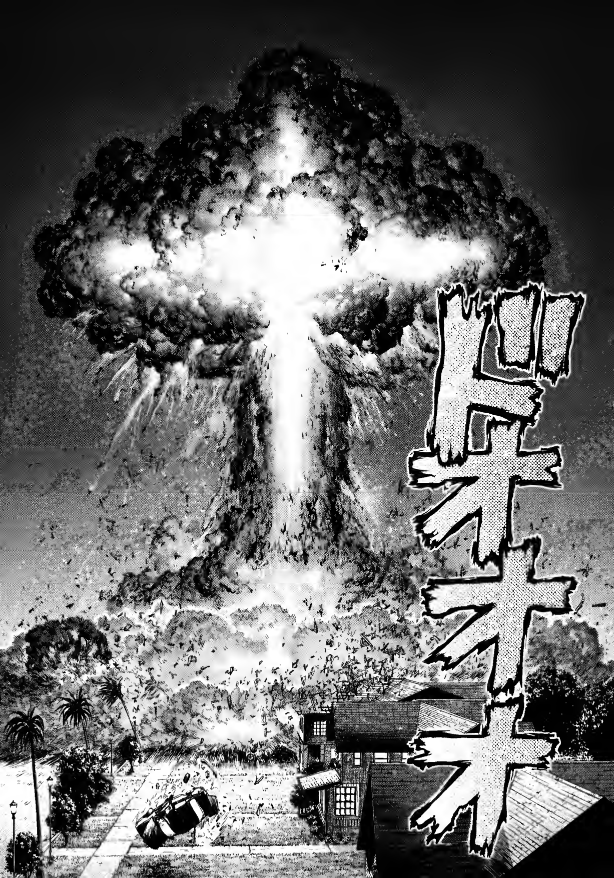

WHO'S THERE ?!
SHOW YOURSELF!
A CAT?
IS IT A CAT ...?!
OR A BIRD?!
OR...
A SNAKE?

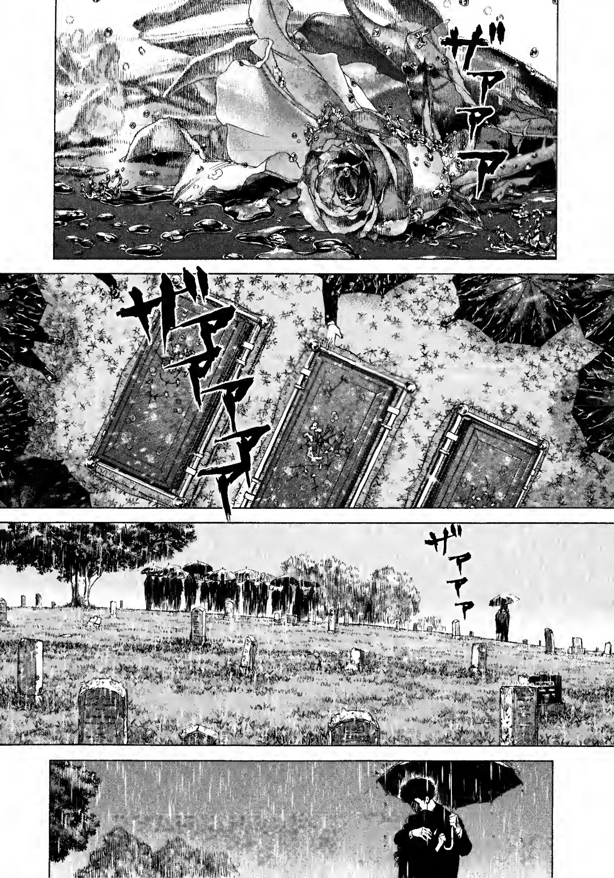

MEOW

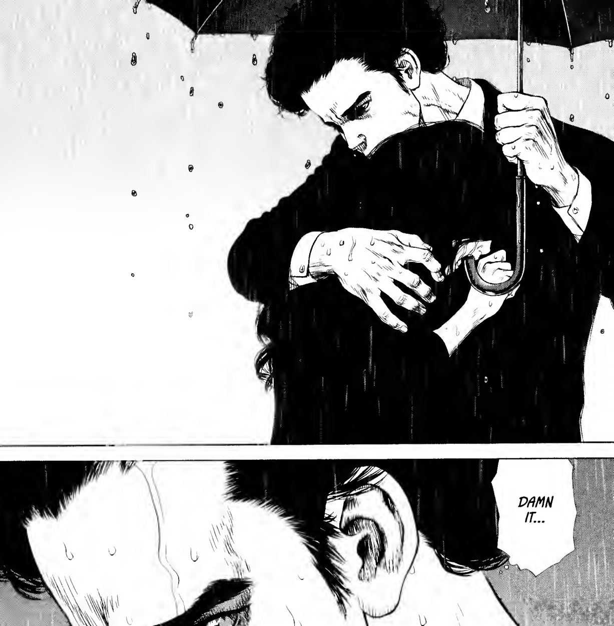

DIE!
LUNA!
バァァァ
ギギギギ
TRAN-2
ドゴォ
FUEL OIL
-OCEANS INDUSTRY-


ブワッ

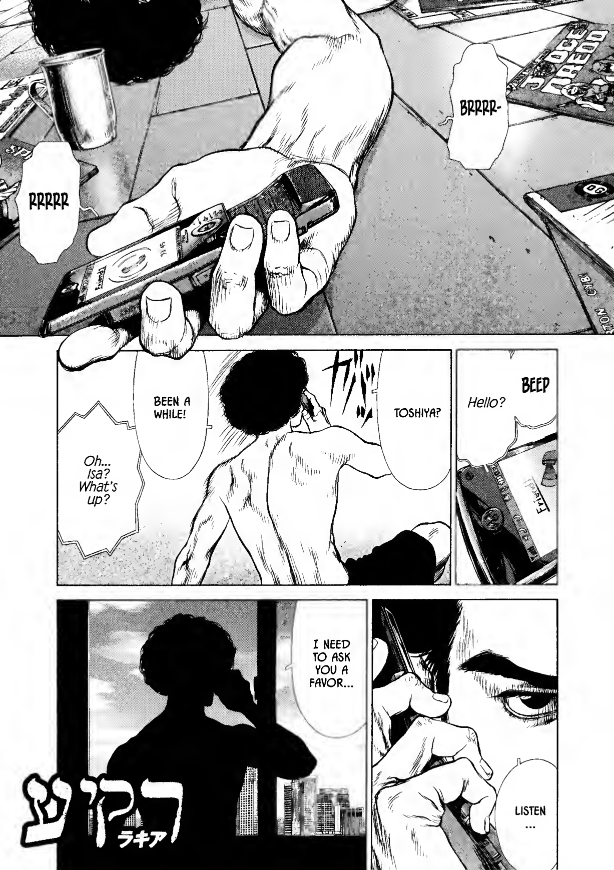

NOOOO!
ガザガザ


ドオオオ


ザァァァ
ザァァァァ
ザァァァ


DAMN IT...
DAMN IT...

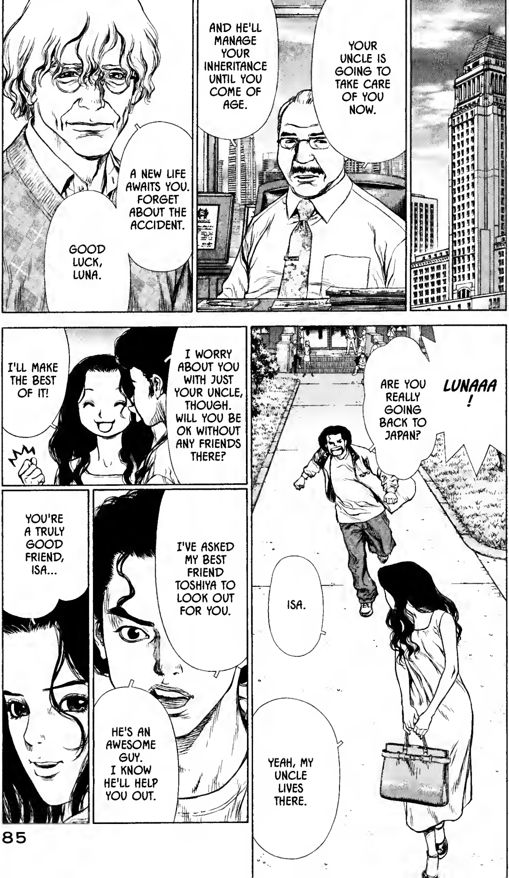
Codex-3/end

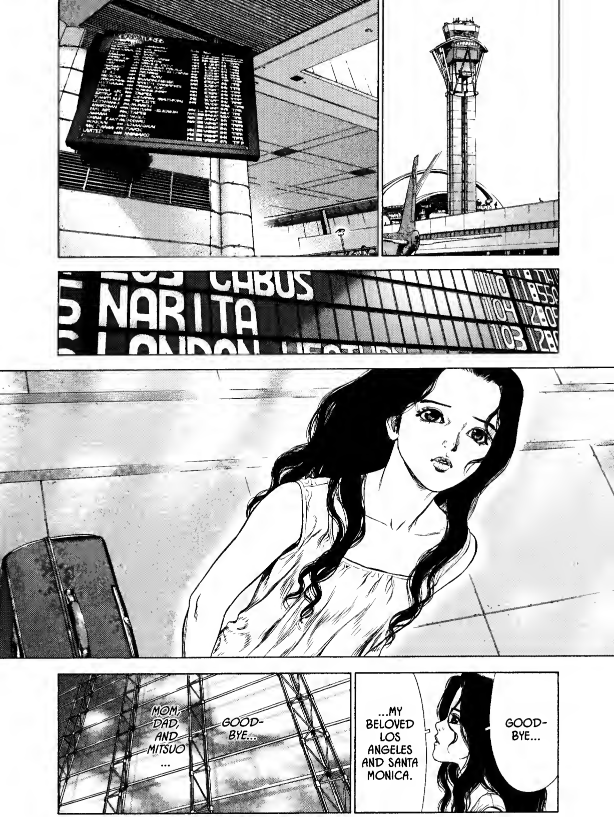

BRRRR-
RRRRR
Friend1
BEEP
Hello?
TOSHIYA?
BEEN A WHILE!
Oh... Isa? What's up?
LISTEN ...
I NEED TO ASK YOU A FAVOR...
רקיע
ラキア

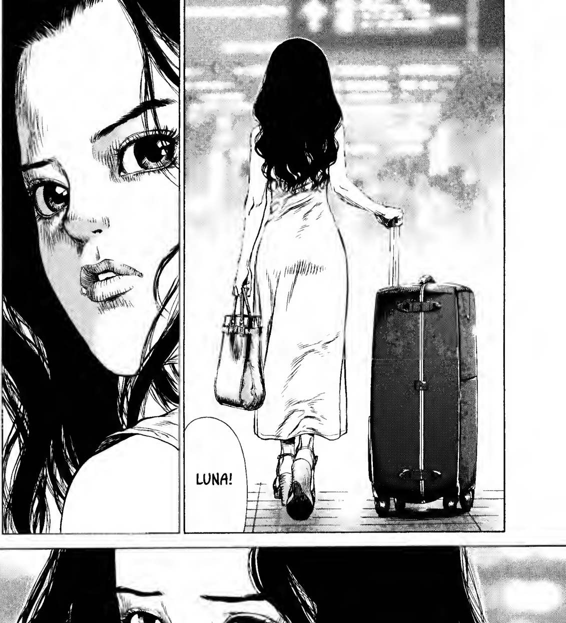
רקיע

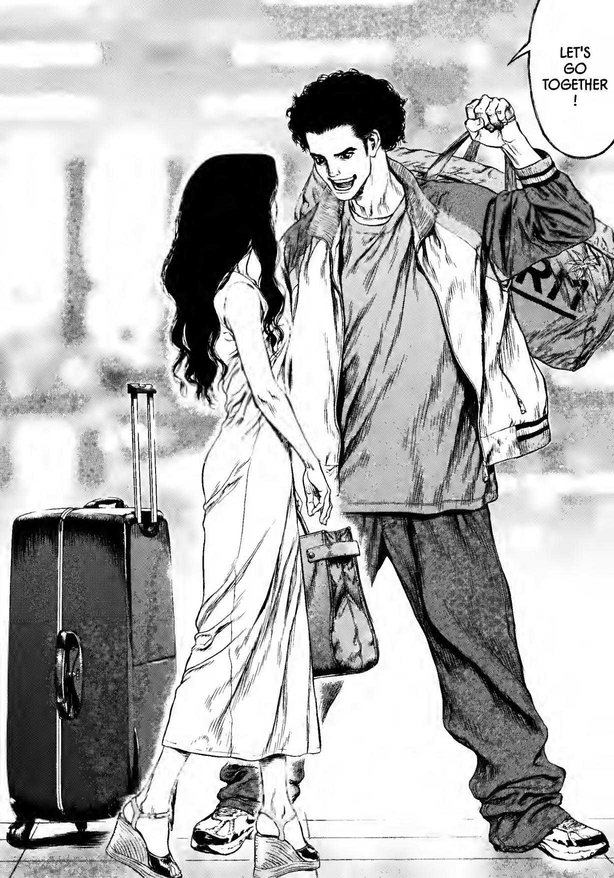
Codex 4

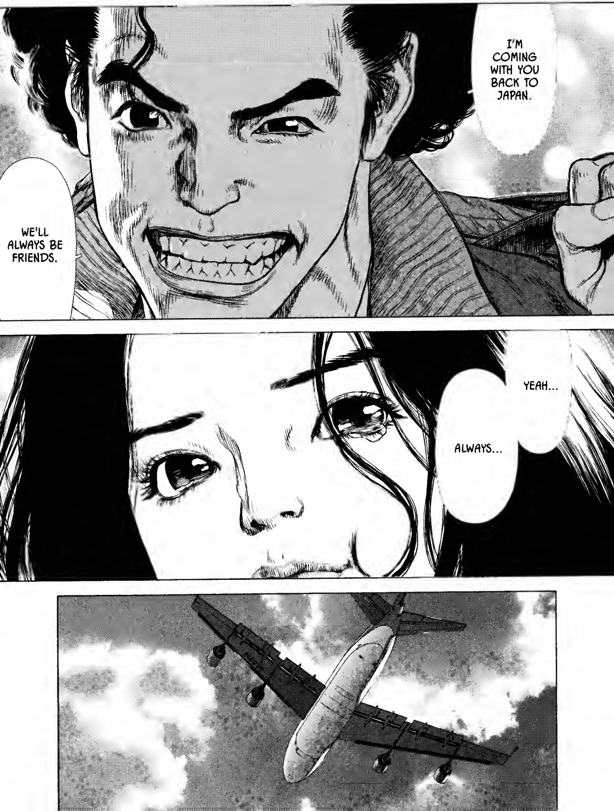
Friends

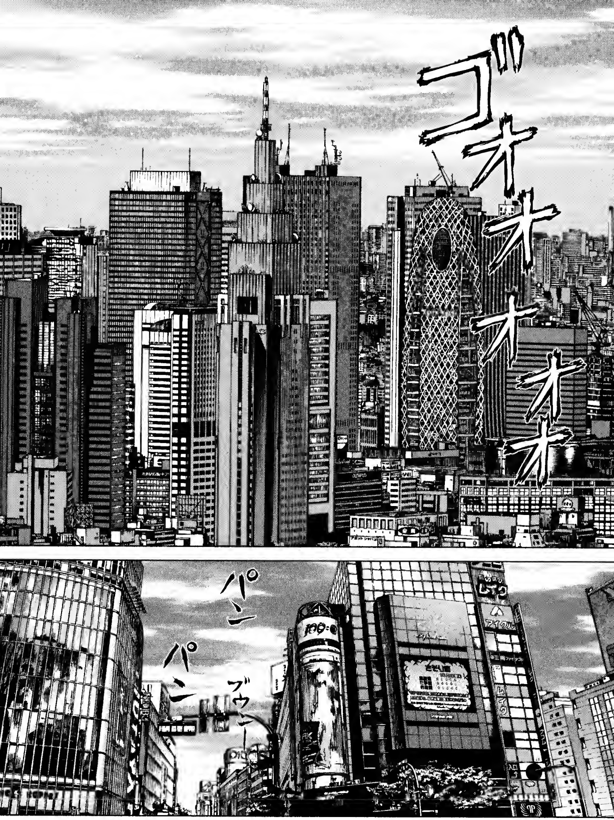

YOUR UNCLE IS GOING TO TAKE CARE OF YOU NOW.
AND HE'LL MANAGE YOUR INHERITANCE UNTIL YOU COME OF AGE.
A NEW LIFE AWAITS YOU. FORGET ABOUT THE ACCIDENT.
GOOD LUCK, LUNA.
LUNAAA!
ARE YOU REALLY GOING BACK TO JAPAN?
ISA.
YEAH, MY UNCLE LIVES THERE.
I WORRY ABOUT YOU WITH JUST YOUR UNCLE, THOUGH. WILL YOU BE OK WITHOUT ANY FRIENDS THERE?
I'LL MAKE THE BEST OF IT!
I'VE ASKED MY BEST FRIEND TOSHIYA TO LOOK OUT FOR YOU.
HE'S AN AWESOME GUY. I KNOW HE'LL HELP YOU OUT.
YOU'RE A TRULY GOOD FRIEND, ISA...


LOS CABOS
NARITA
MOM, DAD, AND MITSUO...
GOOD-BYE...
...MY BELOVED LOS ANGELES AND SANTA MONICA.
GOOD-BYE...

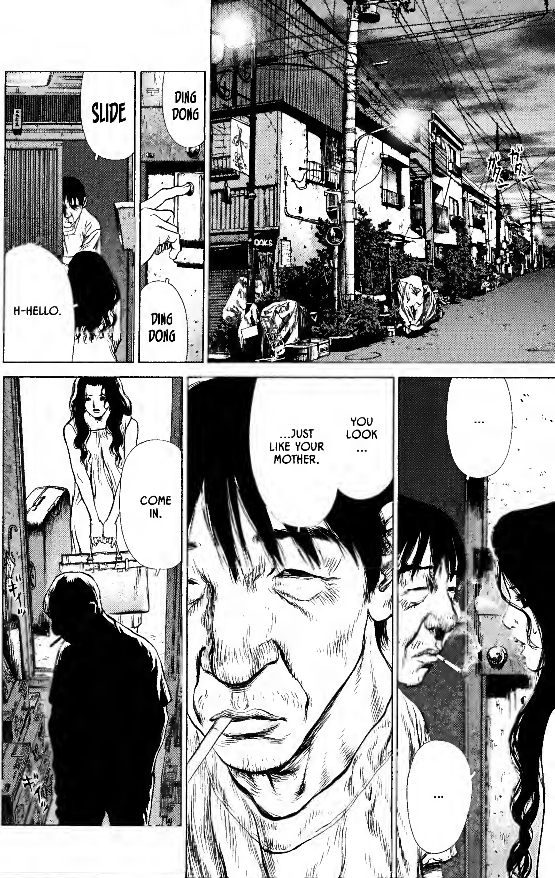

LUNA!

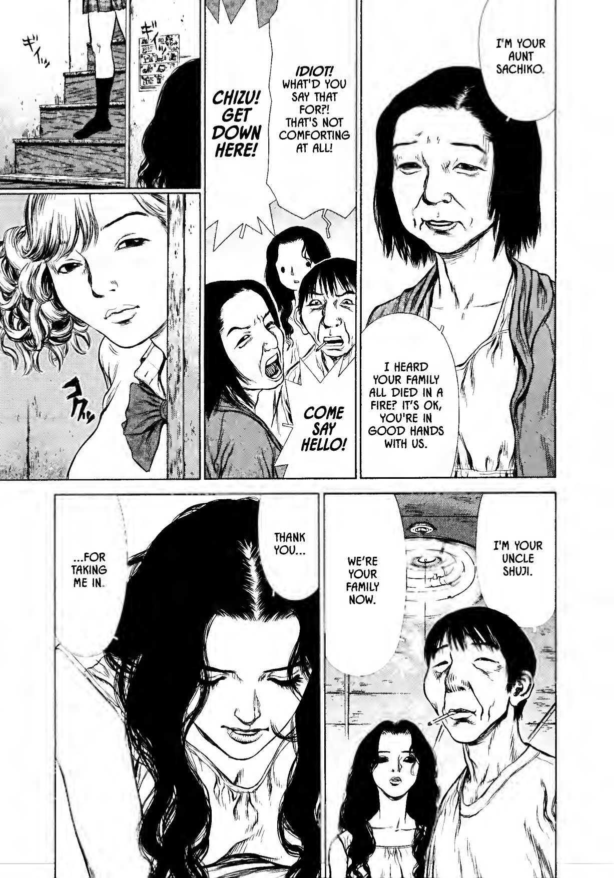

LET'S GO TOGETHER !

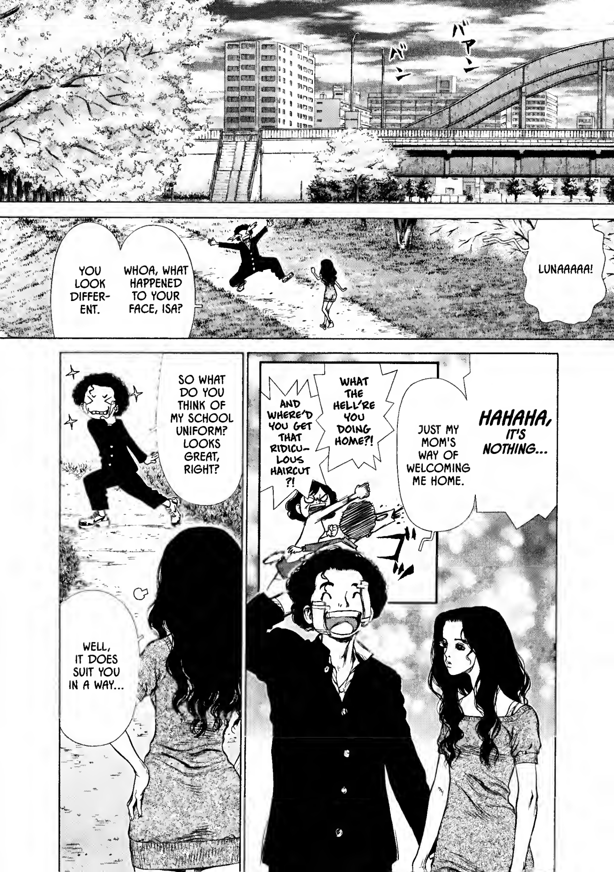

I'M COMING WITH YOU BACK TO JAPAN.
WE'LL ALWAYS BE FRIENDS.
YEAH...
ALWAYS...

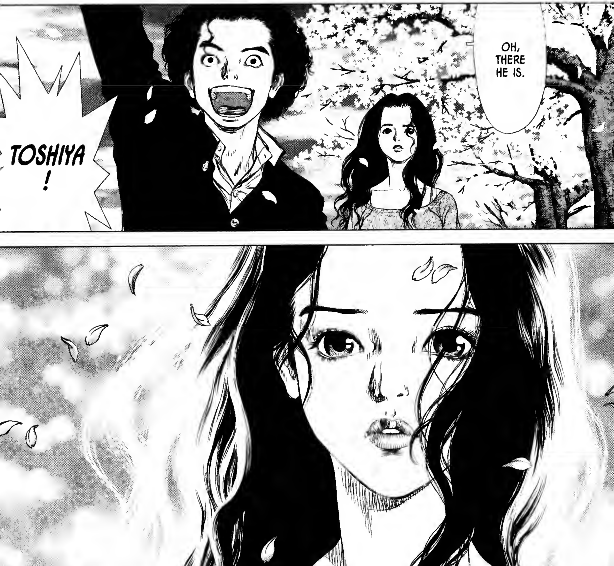

ゴオオオオ
パン
パン
ブウンー

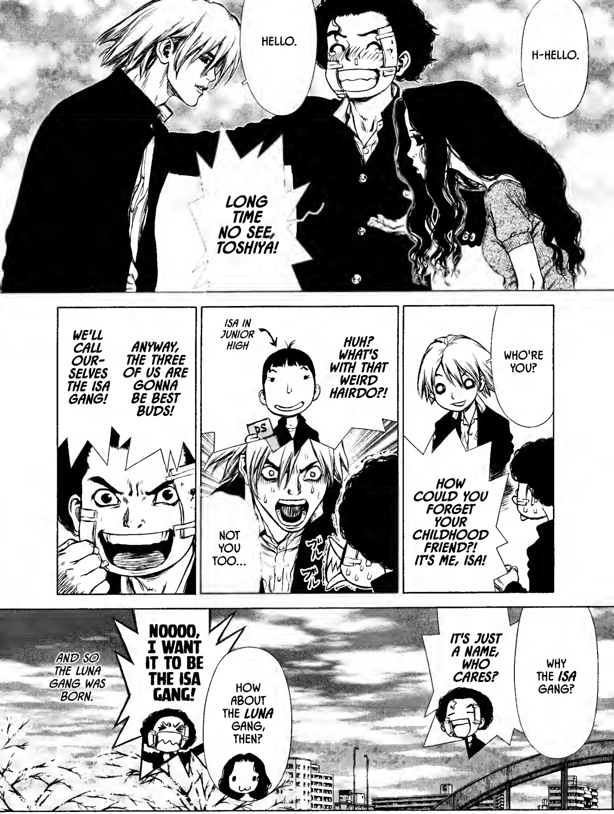
ドン


ガタン ガタン
DING DONG
DING DONG
SLIDE
H-HELLO.
...
...
YOU LOOK ...
...JUST LIKE YOUR MOTHER.
COME IN.
ギイッ
ギイッ

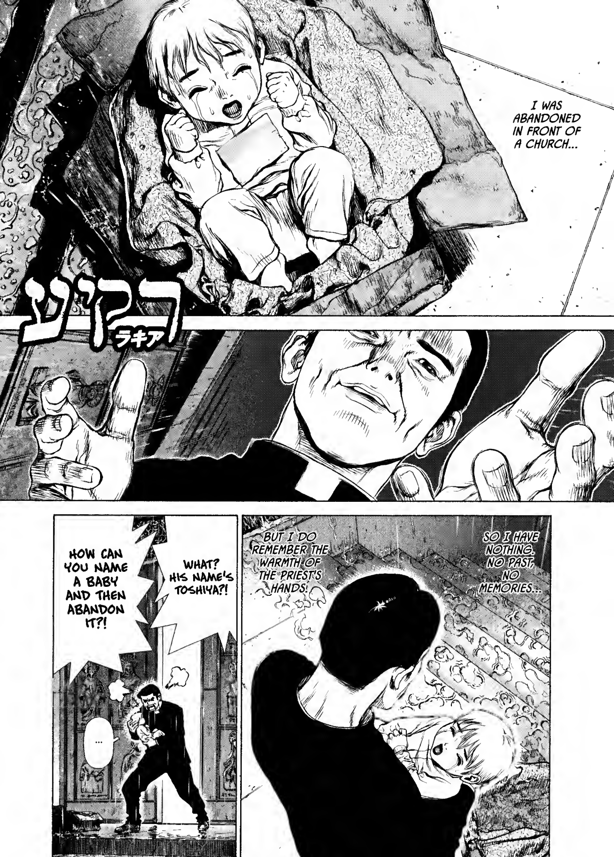

I'M YOUR AUNT SACHIKO.
I HEARD YOUR FAMILY ALL DIED IN A FIRE? IT'S OK, YOU'RE IN GOOD HANDS WITH US.
IDIOT! WHAT'D YOU SAY THAT FOR?! THAT'S NOT COMFORTING AT ALL!
CHIZU! GET DOWN HERE!
COME SAY HELLO!
ギィッ
ギイッ
コクッ
I'M YOUR UNCLE SHUJI.
WE'RE YOUR FAMILY NOW.
THANK YOU...
...FOR TAKING ME IN.

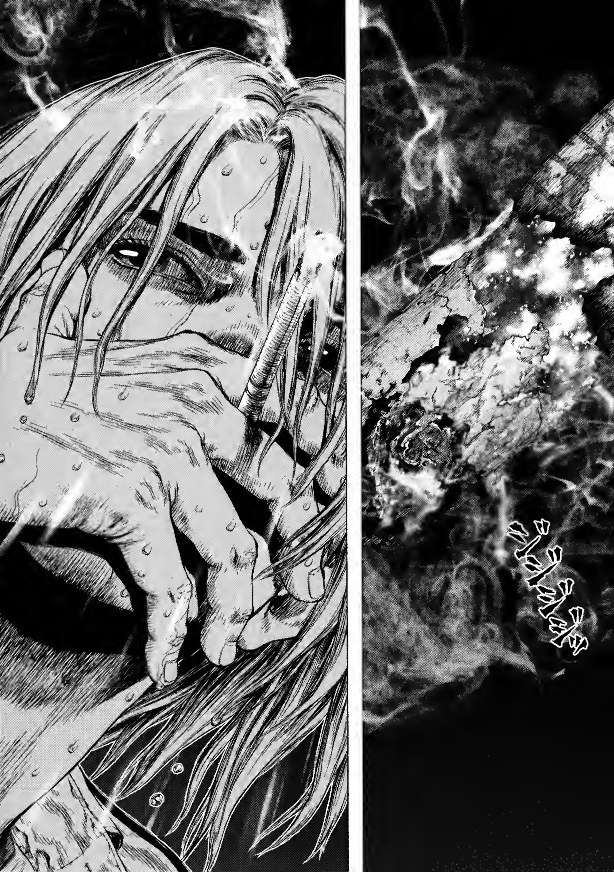

バアーン
バン
LUNAAAAA!
WHOA, WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR FACE, ISA?
YOU LOOK DIFFERENT.
HAHAHA, IT'S NOTHING...
JUST MY MOM'S WAY OF WELCOMING ME HOME.
WHAT THE HELL'RE YOU DOING HOME?!
AND WHERE'D YOU GET THAT RIDICULOUS HAIRCUT?!
SO WHAT DO YOU THINK OF MY SCHOOL UNIFORM? LOOKS GREAT, RIGHT?
WELL, IT DOES SUIT YOU IN A WAY...

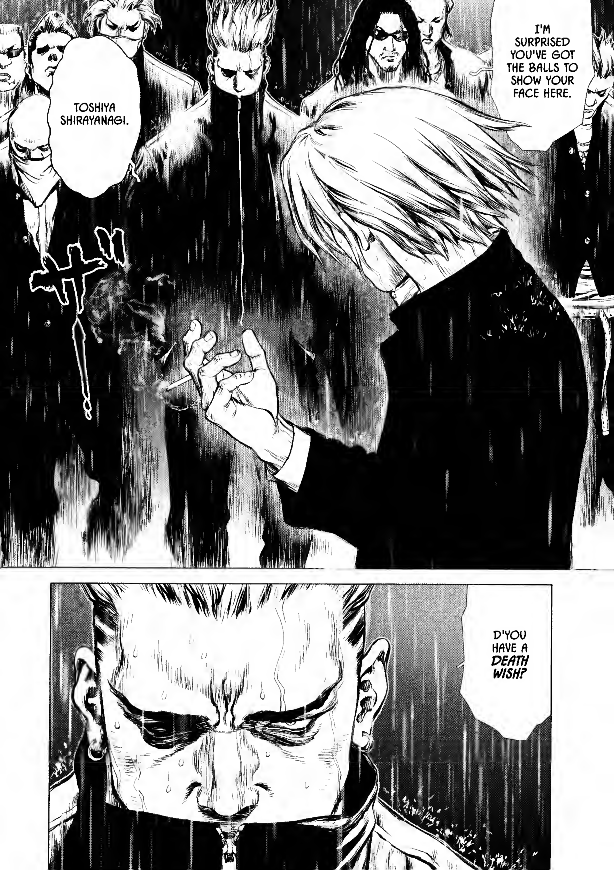

OH, THERE HE IS.
TOSHIYA!


H-HELLO.
HELLO.
LONG TIME NO SEE, TOSHIYA!
WHO'RE YOU?
HOW COULD YOU FORGET YOUR CHILDHOOD FRIEND?! IT'S ME, ISA!
HUH? WHAT'S WITH THAT WEIRD HAIRDO?!
ISA IN JUNIOR HIGH
DS
NOT YOU TOO...
ANYWAY, THE THREE OF US ARE GONNA BE BEST BUDS!
WE'LL CALL OURSELVES THE ISA GANG!
WHY THE *ISA* GANG?
IT'S JUST A NAME, WHO CARES?
HOW ABOUT THE *LUNA* GANG, THEN?
NOOOO, I WANT IT TO BE THE ISA GANG!
AND SO THE LUNA GANG WAS BORN.

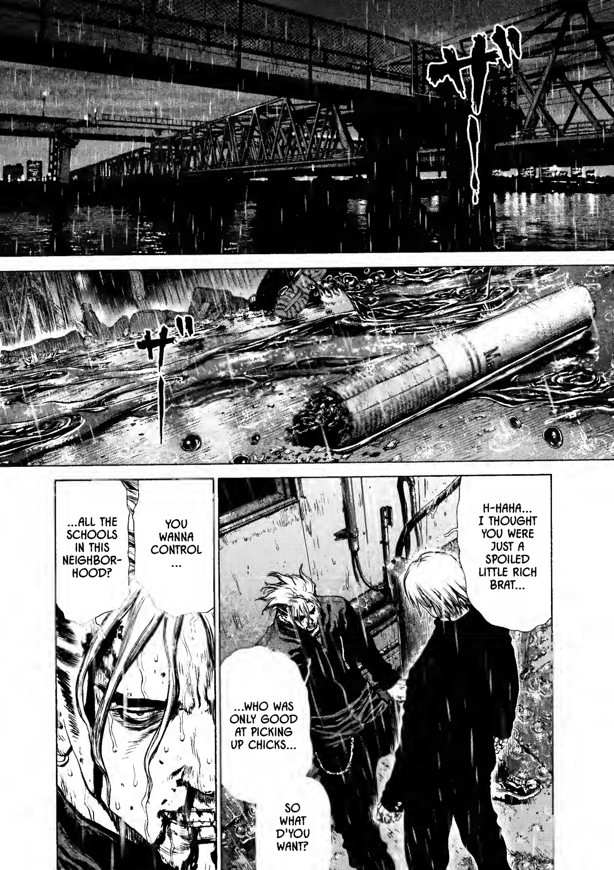
Codex-4/end

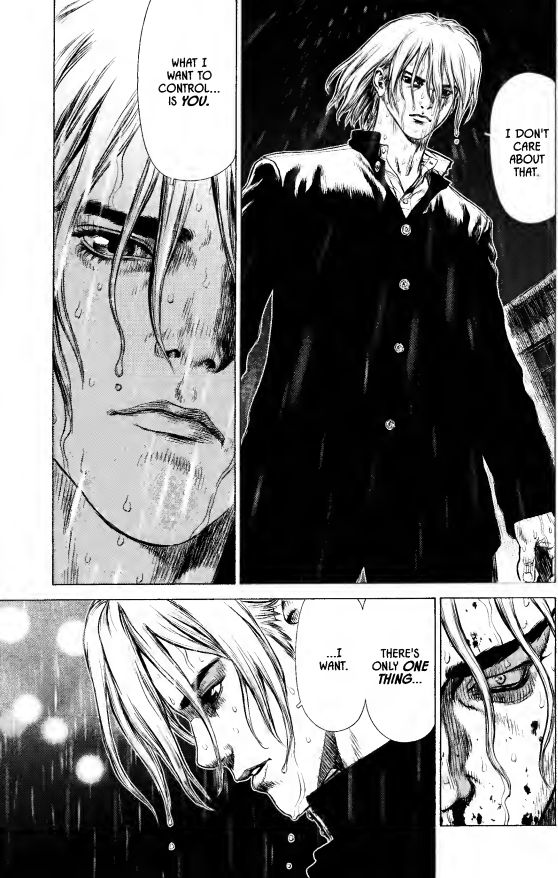

I WAS ABANDONED IN FRONT OF A CHURCH...
רקיע
ラキア
SO I HAVE NOTHING, NO PAST, NO MEMORIES...
BUT I DO REMEMBER THE WARMTH OF THE PRIEST'S HANDS.
WHAT? HIS NAME'S TOSHIYA?!
HOW CAN YOU NAME A BABY AND THEN ABANDON IT?!
...

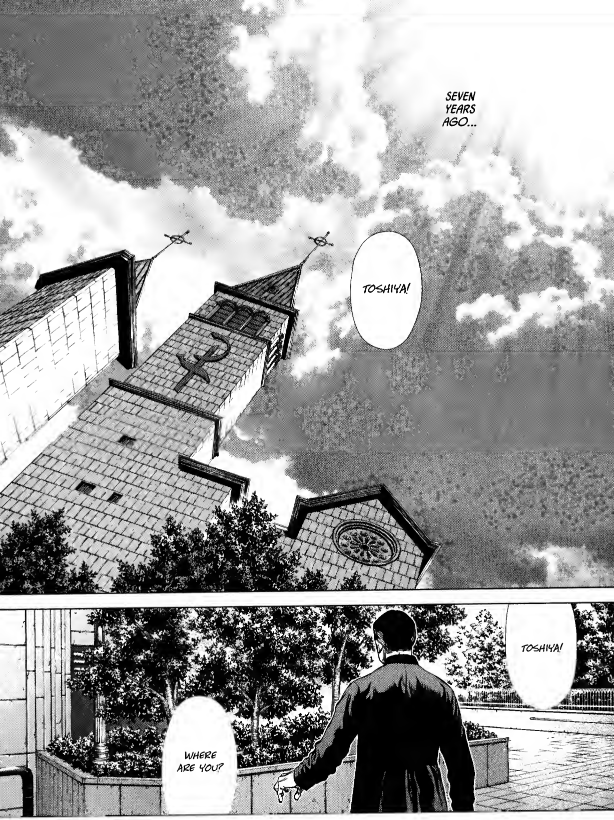

ジジジジ

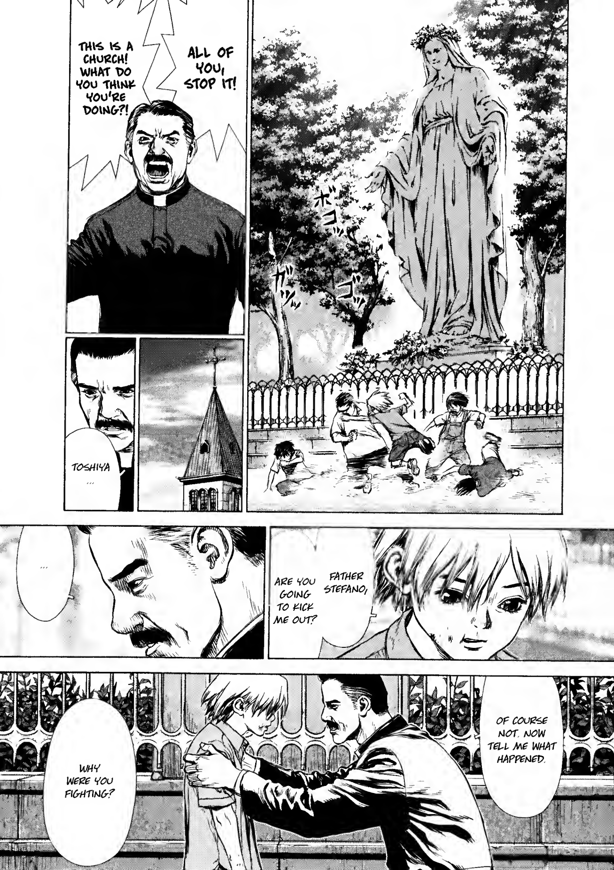

I'M SURPRISED YOU'VE GOT THE BALLS TO SHOW YOUR FACE HERE.
TOSHIYA SHIRAYANAGI.
ザッ
D'YOU HAVE A *DEATH WISH?*

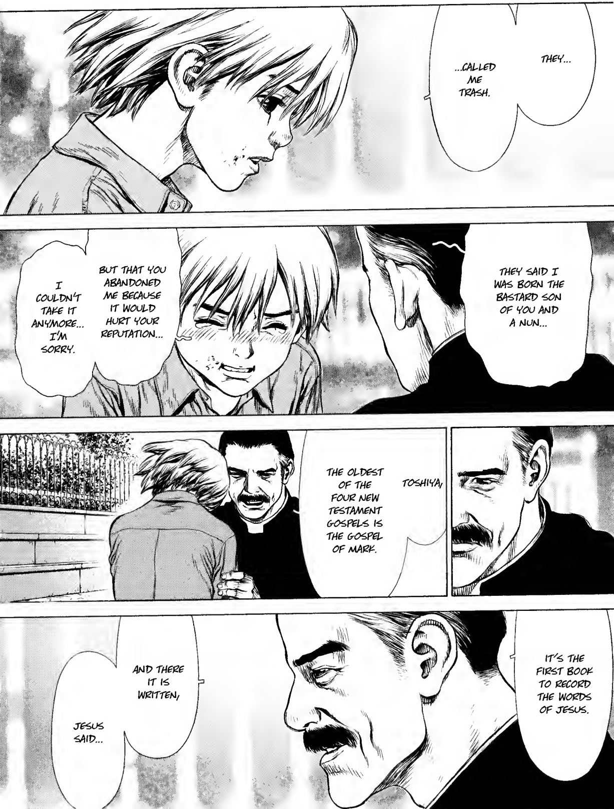
רקיע
Codex
5
Toshiya

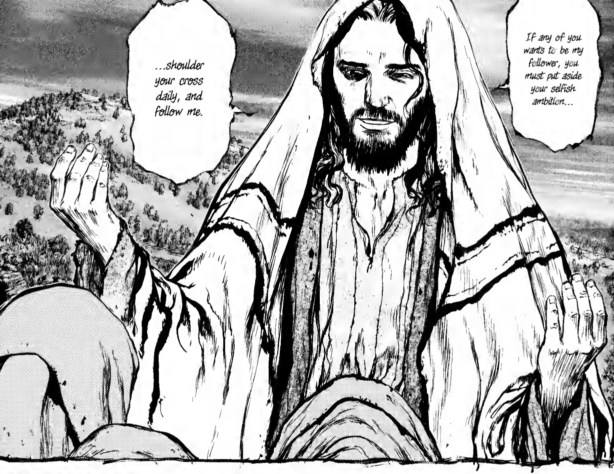

ザー
ザー
H-HAHA... I THOUGHT YOU WERE JUST A SPOILED LITTLE RICH BRAT...
...WHO WAS ONLY GOOD AT PICKING UP CHICKS...
SO WHAT D'YOU WANT?
YOU WANNA CONTROL ...
...ALL THE SCHOOLS IN THIS NEIGHBORHOOD?

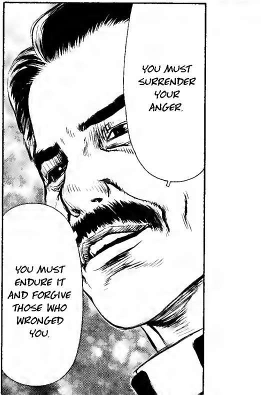

I DON'T CARE ABOUT THAT.
WHAT I WANT TO CONTROL... IS *YOU.*
THERE'S ONLY *ONE THING*...
...I WANT.

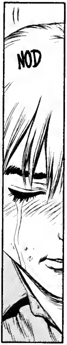

SEVEN YEARS AGO...
TOSHIYA!
TOSHIYA!
WHERE ARE YOU?

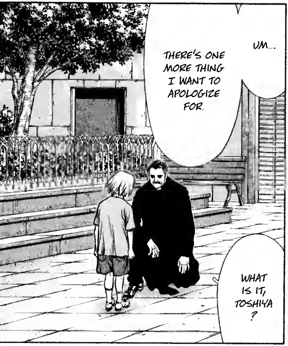

ボコッ
ガッ
ゴッ
ALL OF YOU, STOP IT!
THIS IS A CHURCH! WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!
TOSHIYA ...
FATHER STEFANO,
ARE YOU GOING TO KICK ME OUT?
...
OF COURSE NOT. NOW TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED.
WHY WERE YOU FIGHTING?

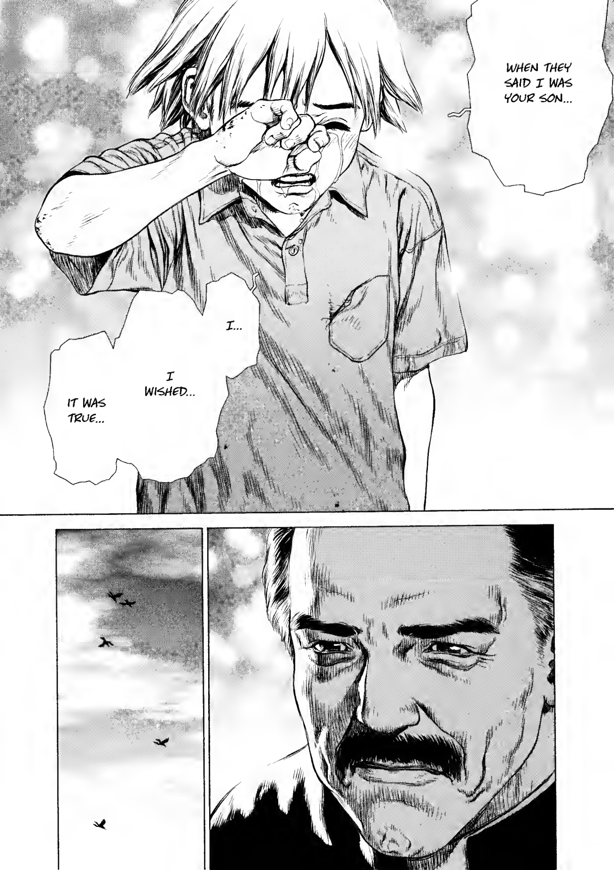

THEY...
...CALLED ME TRASH.
THEY SAID I WAS BORN THE BASTARD SON OF YOU AND A NUN...
BUT THAT YOU ABANDONED ME BECAUSE IT WOULD HURT YOUR REPUTATION...
I COULDN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE... I'M SORRY.
TOSHIYA,
THE OLDEST OF THE FOUR NEW TESTAMENT GOSPELS IS THE GOSPEL OF MARK.
IT'S THE FIRST BOOK TO RECORD THE WORDS OF JESUS.
AND THERE IT IS WRITTEN,
JESUS SAID...

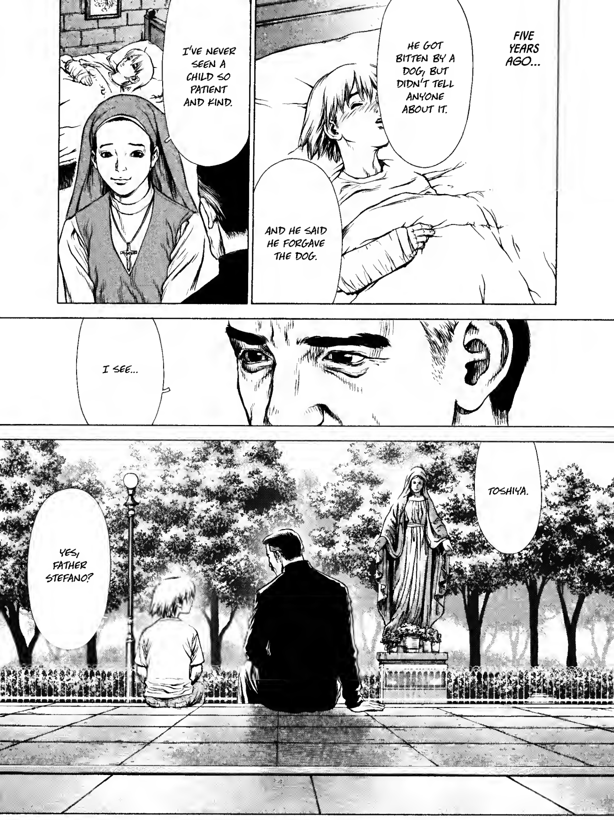

If any of you wants to be my follower, you must put aside your selfish ambition...
...shoulder your cross daily, and follow me.

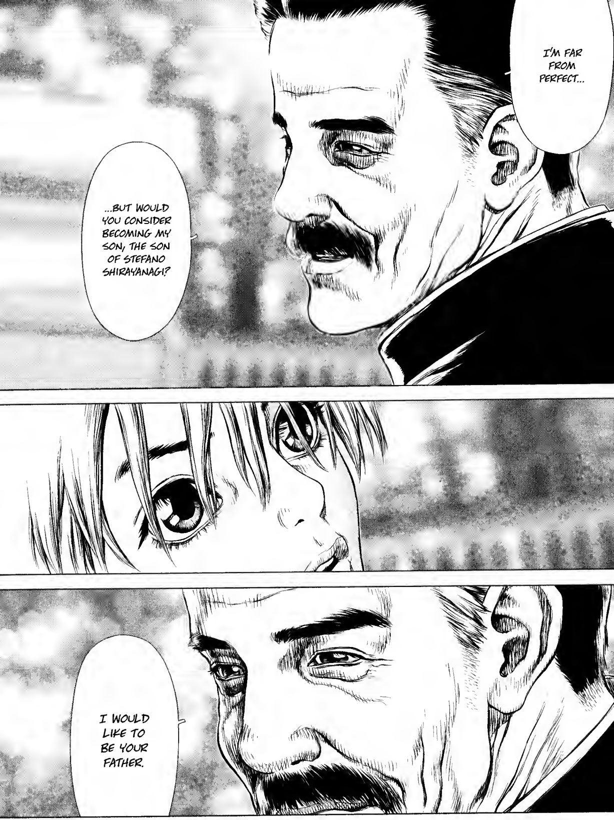

YOU MUST SURRENDER YOUR ANGER.
YOU MUST ENDURE IT AND FORGIVE THOSE WHO WRONGED YOU.

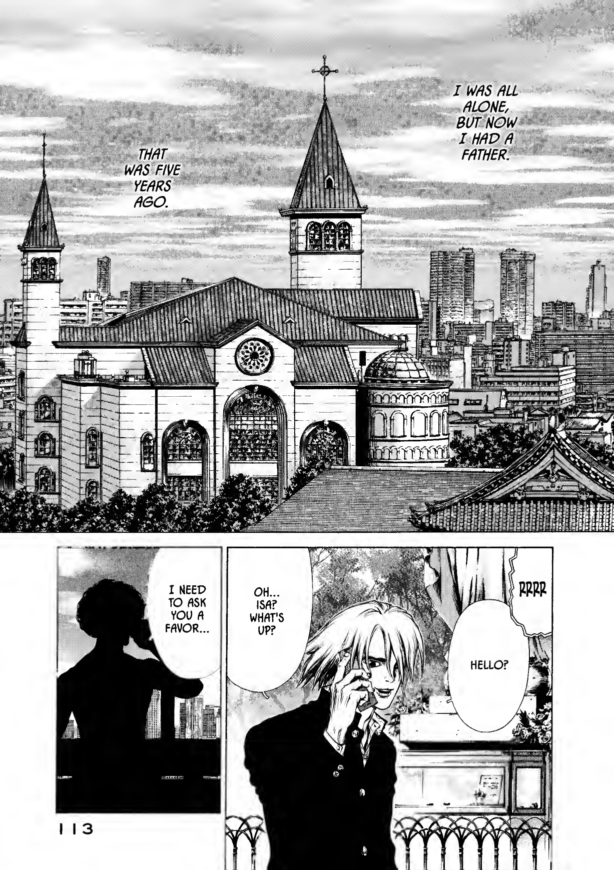

NOD

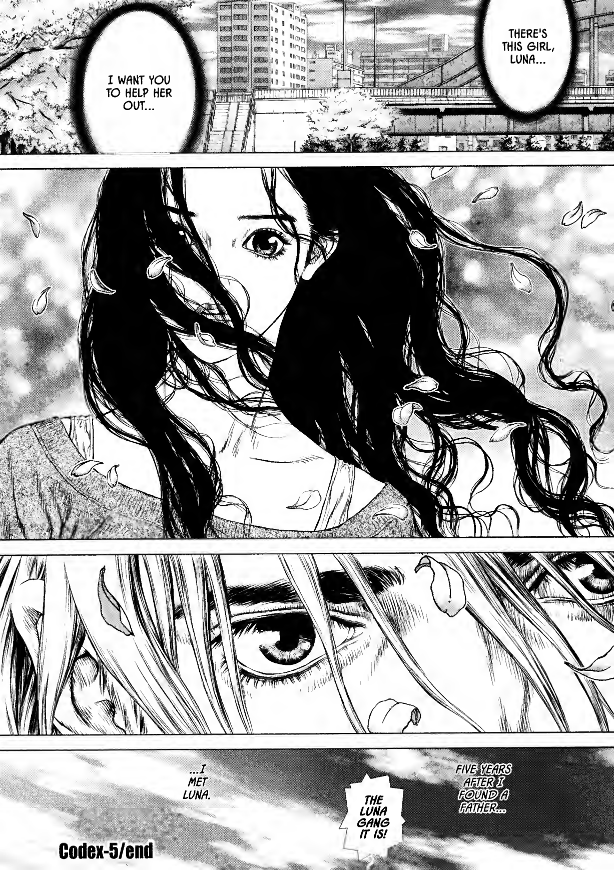

UM...
THERE'S ONE MORE THING I WANT TO APOLOGIZE FOR.
WHAT IS IT, TOSHIYA?


WHEN THEY SAID I WAS YOUR SON...
I...
I WISHED...
IT WAS TRUE...

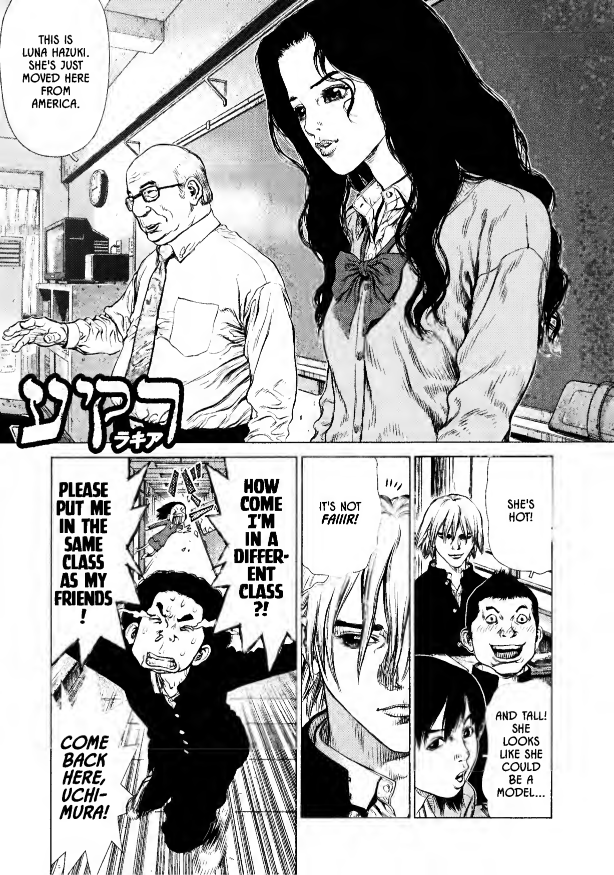

FIVE YEARS AGO...
HE GOT BITTEN BY A DOG, BUT DIDN'T TELL ANYONE ABOUT IT.
AND HE SAID HE FORGAVE THE DOG.
I'VE NEVER SEEN A CHILD SO PATIENT AND KIND.
I SEE...
TOSHIYA.
YES, FATHER STEFANO?

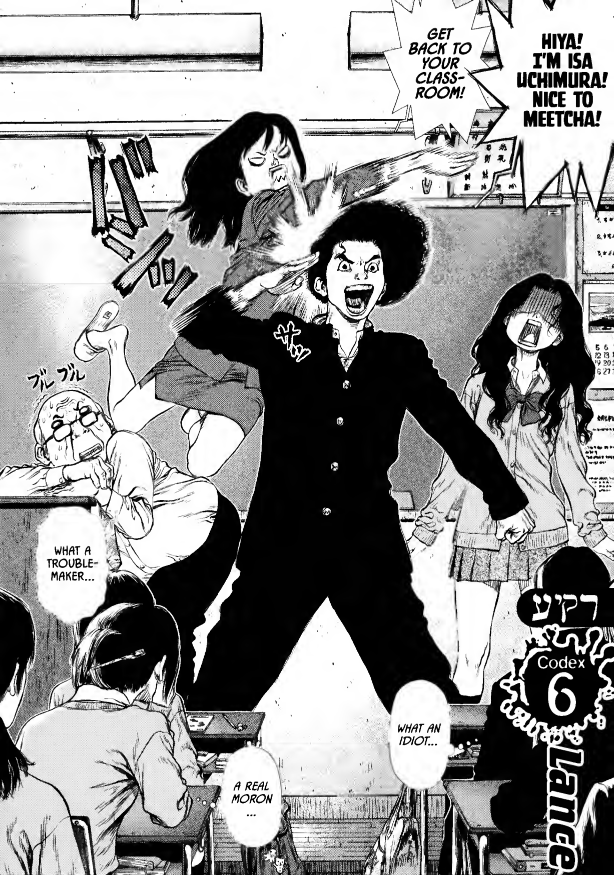

I'M FAR FROM PERFECT...
...BUT WOULD YOU CONSIDER BECOMING MY SON, THE SON OF STEFANO SHIRAYANAGI?
I WOULD LIKE TO BE YOUR FATHER.

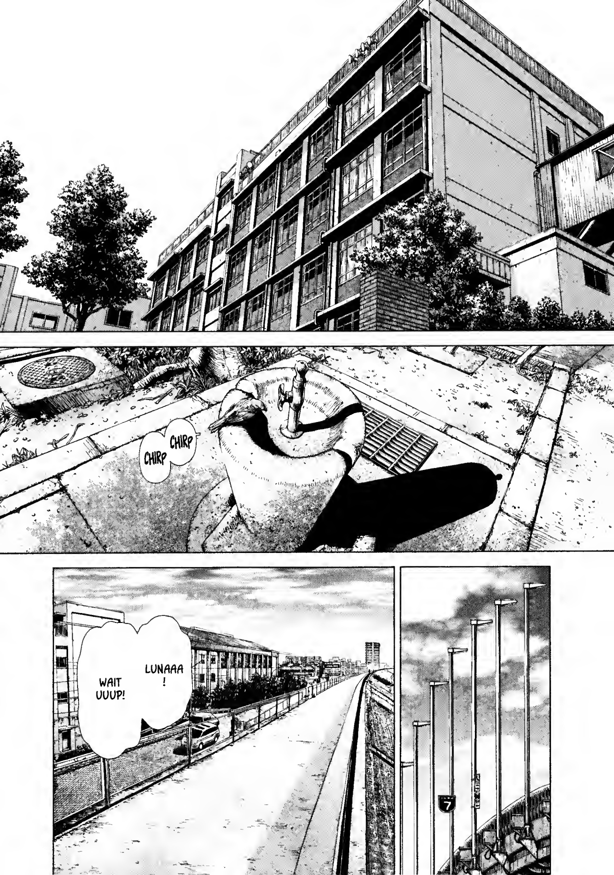

I WAS ALL ALONE, BUT NOW I HAD A FATHER.
THAT WAS FIVE YEARS AGO.
RRRR
HELLO?
OH... ISA? WHAT'S UP?
I NEED TO ASK YOU A FAVOR...

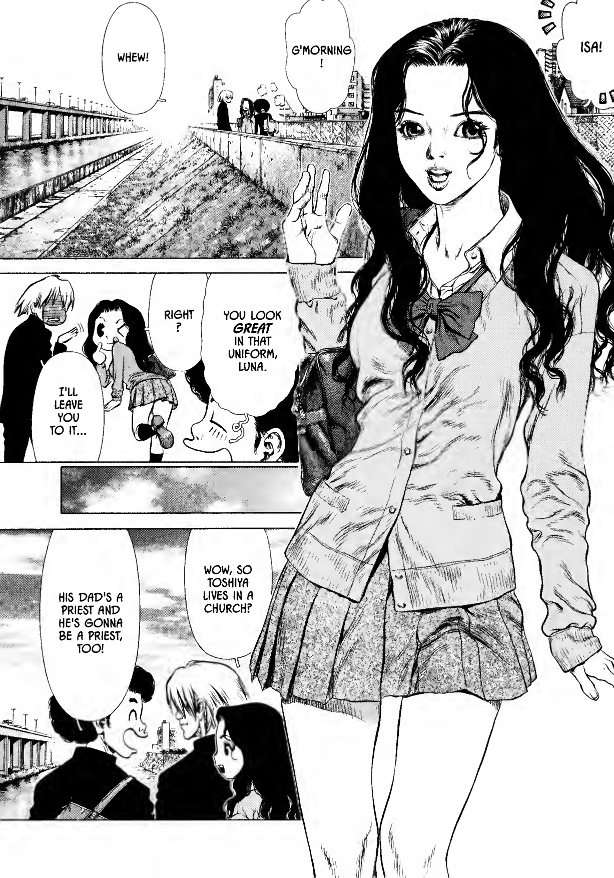

THERE'S THIS GIRL, LUNA...
I WANT YOU TO HELP HER OUT...
FIVE YEARS AFTER I FOUND A FATHER...
THE LUNA GANG IT IS!
...I MET LUNA.

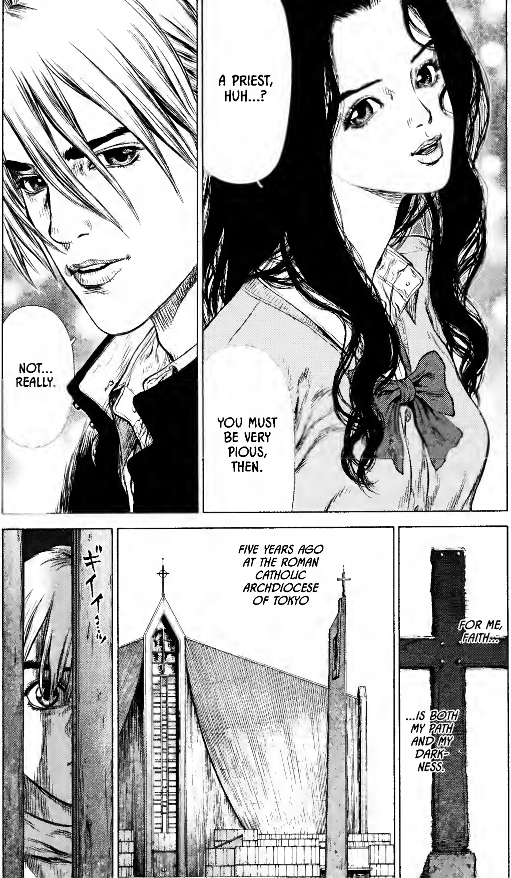
Codex-5/end

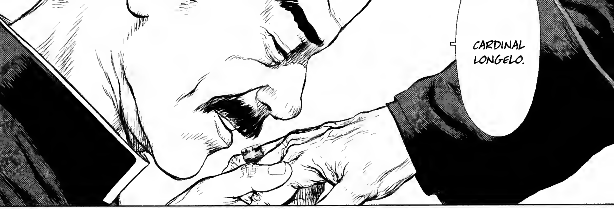

THIS IS LUNA HAZUKI. SHE'S JUST MOVED HERE FROM AMERICA.
רקיע
ラキア
SHE'S HOT!
AND TALL! SHE LOOKS LIKE SHE COULD BE A MODEL...
IT'S NOT *FAIIIR!*
HOW COME I'M IN A DIFFERENT CLASS?!
PLEASE PUT ME IN THE SAME CLASS AS MY FRIENDS!
COME BACK HERE, UCHIMURA!

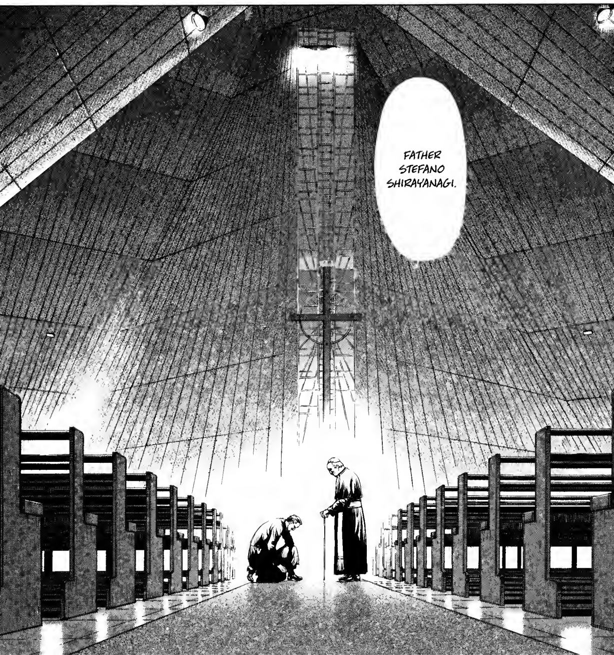

HIYA! I'M ISA UCHIMURA! NICE TO MEETCHA!
GET BACK TO YOUR CLASSROOM!
サッ
ブル ブル
רקיע
Codex 6
Lance
WHAT AN IDIOT...
A REAL MORON ...
WHAT A TROUBLE-MAKER...

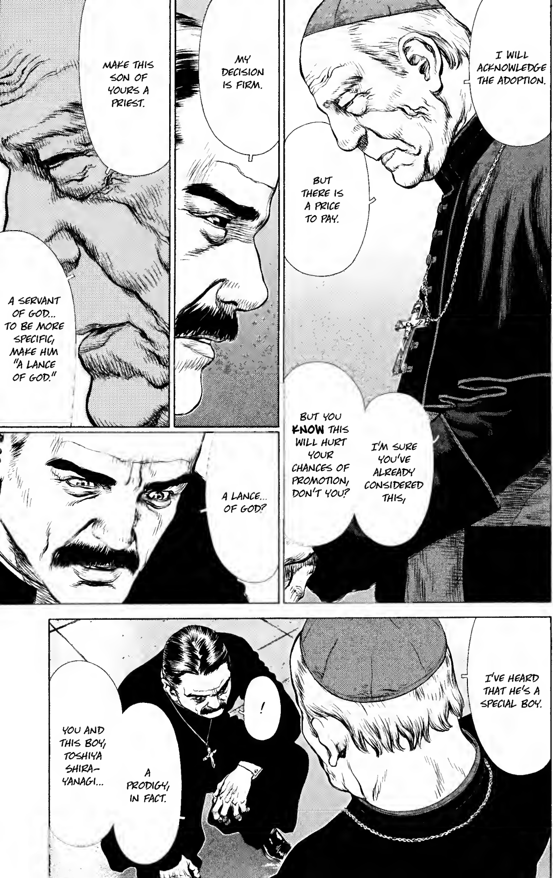

CHIRP
CHIRP
LUNAAA!
WAIT UUUP!
7

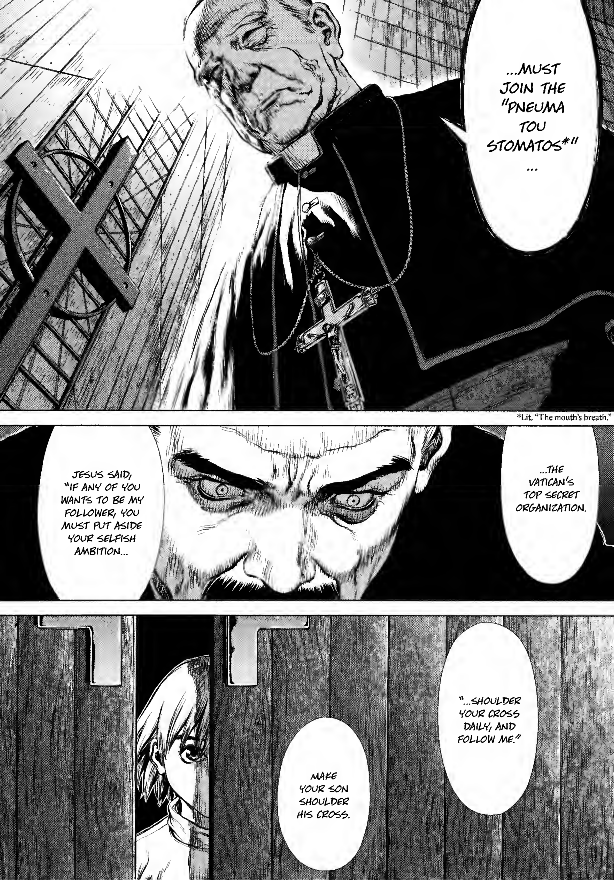

ISA!
G'MORNING!
WHEW!
YOU LOOK *GREAT* IN THAT UNIFORM, LUNA.
RIGHT?
I'LL LEAVE YOU TO IT...
WOW, SO TOSHIYA LIVES IN A CHURCH?
HIS DAD'S A PRIEST AND HE'S GONNA BE A PRIEST, TOO!


A PRIEST, HUH...?
YOU MUST BE VERY PIOUS, THEN.
NOT... REALLY.
FOR ME, FAITH...
...IS BOTH MY PATH AND MY DARKNESS.
FIVE YEARS AGO AT THE ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF TOKYO
ギイイ…

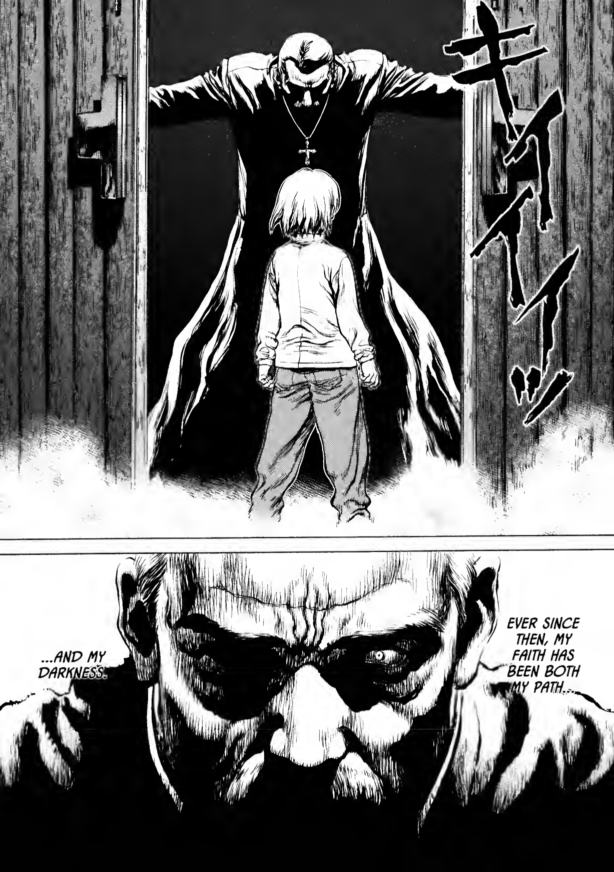

CARDINAL LONGELO.

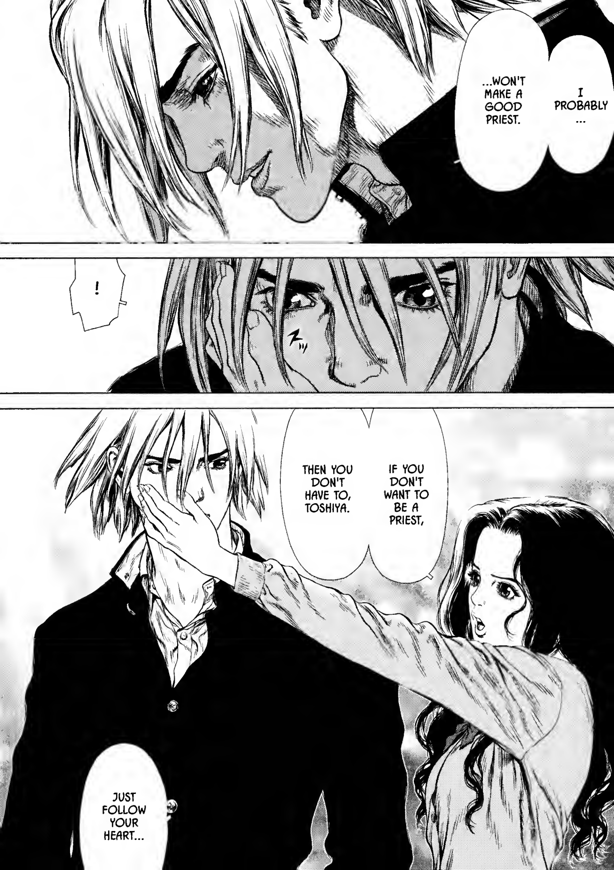

FATHER STEFANO SHIRAYANAGI.

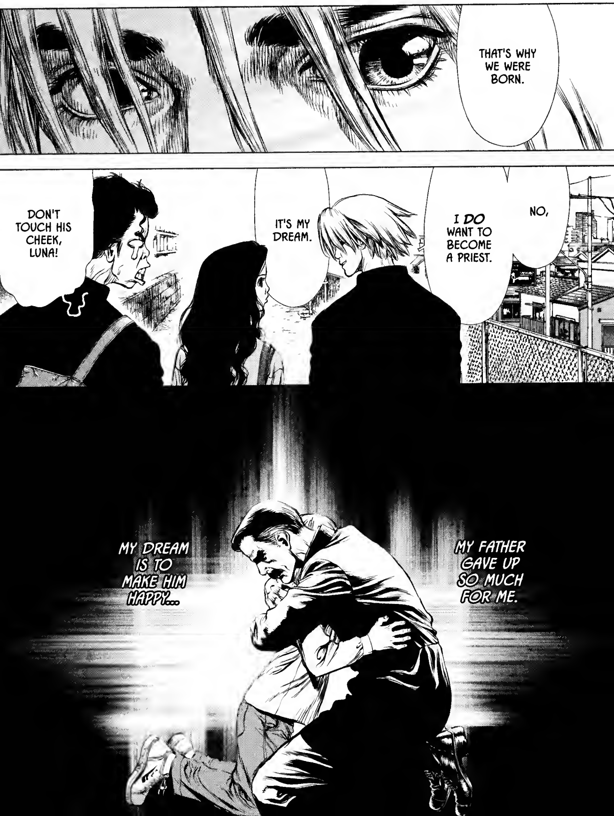

I WILL ACKNOWLEDGE THE ADOPTION.
BUT THERE IS A PRICE TO PAY.
MY DECISION IS FIRM.
MAKE THIS SON OF YOURS A PRIEST.
A SERVANT OF GOD... TO BE MORE SPECIFIC, MAKE HIM "A LANCE OF GOD."
I'M SURE YOU'VE ALREADY CONSIDERED THIS,
BUT YOU **KNOW** THIS WILL HURT YOUR CHANCES OF PROMOTION, DON'T YOU?
A LANCE... OF GOD?
I'VE HEARD THAT HE'S A SPECIAL BOY.
!
A PRODIGY, IN FACT.
YOU AND THIS BOY, TOSHIYA SHIRA-YANAGI...

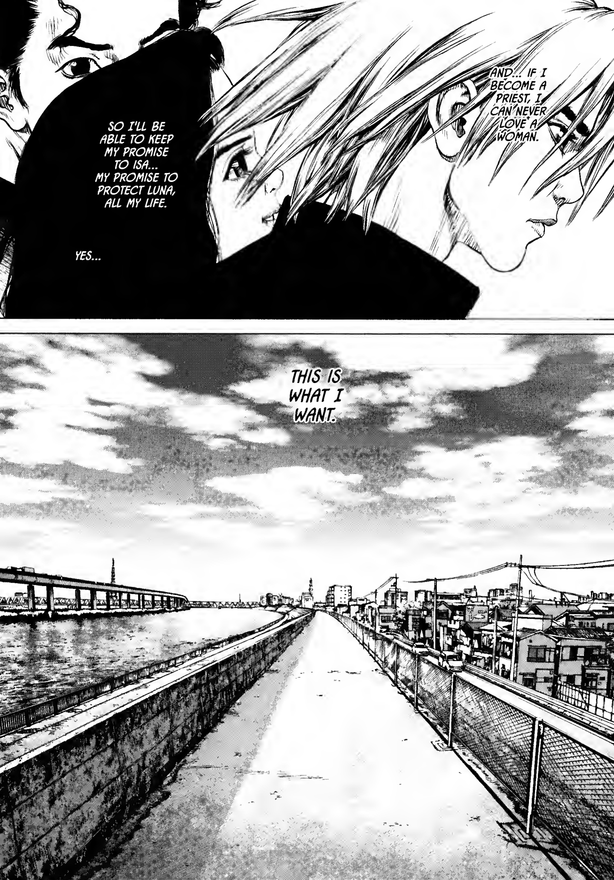

...MUST JOIN THE "PNEUMA TOU STOMATOS*"...
...THE VATICAN'S TOP SECRET ORGANIZATION.
JESUS SAID, "IF ANY OF YOU WANTS TO BE MY FOLLOWER, YOU MUST PUT ASIDE YOUR SELFISH AMBITION...
"...SHOULDER YOUR CROSS DAILY, AND FOLLOW ME."
MAKE YOUR SON SHOULDER HIS CROSS.

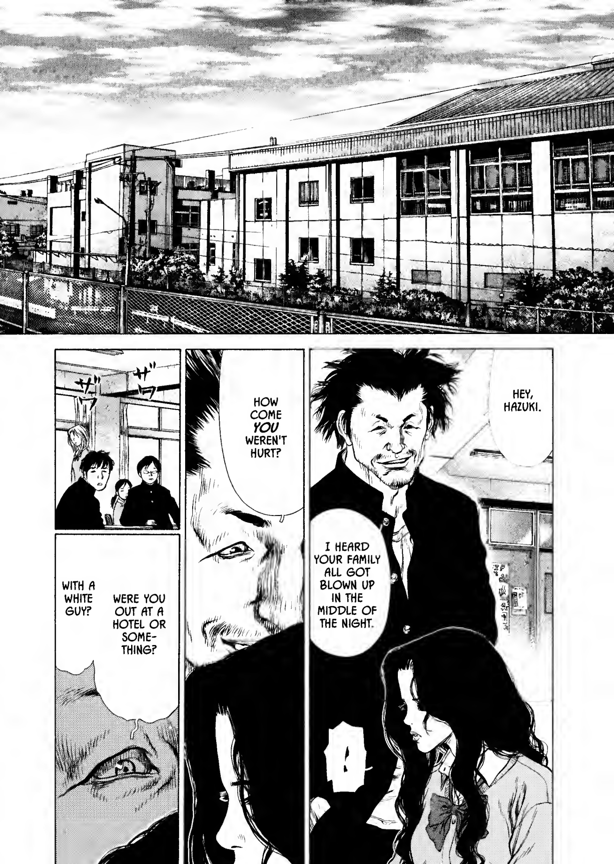
*Lit. "The mouth's breath."

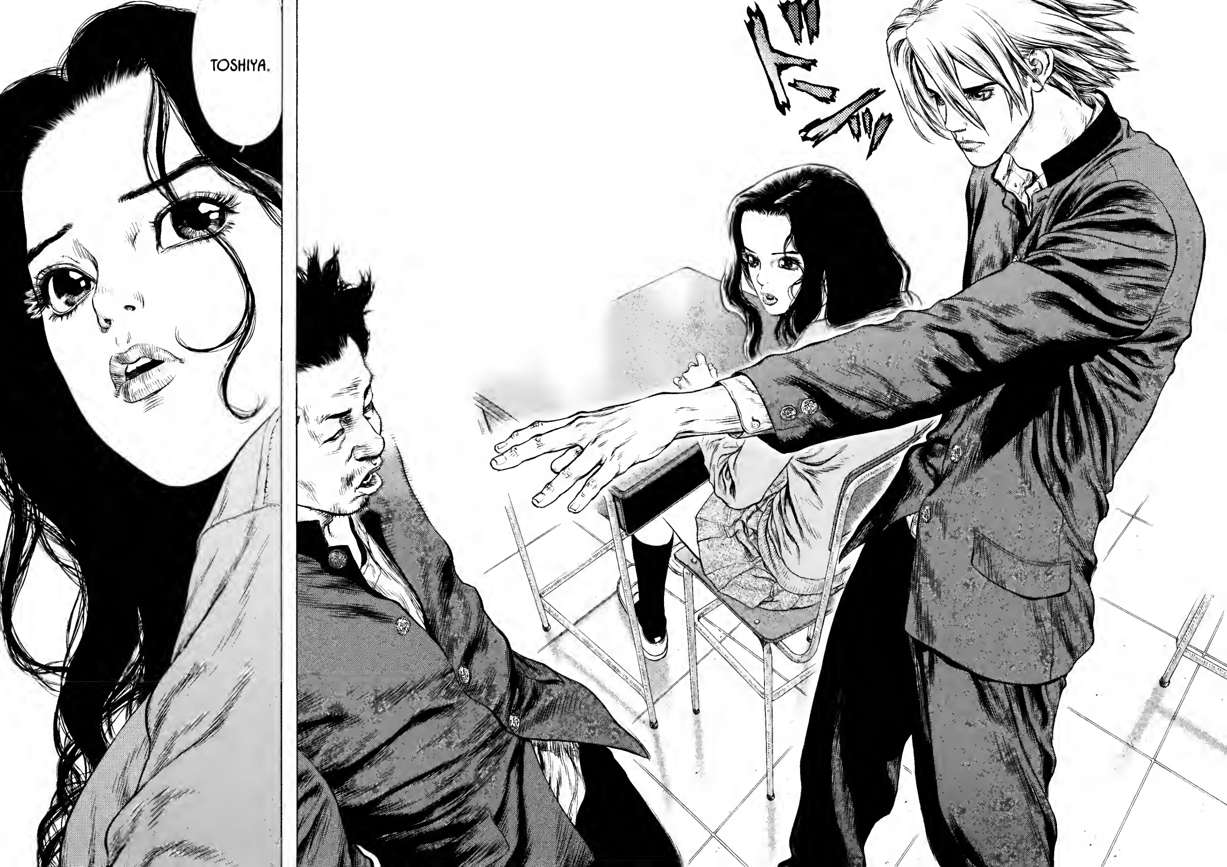

キイイイッ
EVER SINCE THEN, MY FAITH HAS BEEN BOTH MY PATH...
...AND MY DARKNESS.

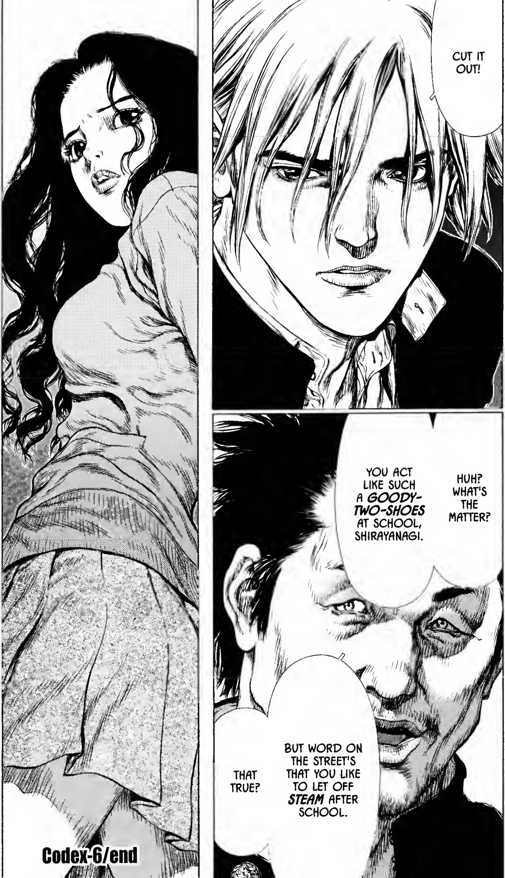

I PROBABLY ...
...WON'T MAKE A GOOD PRIEST.
!
ズッ
IF YOU DON'T WANT TO BE A PRIEST,
THEN YOU DON'T HAVE TO, TOSHIYA.
JUST FOLLOW YOUR HEART...

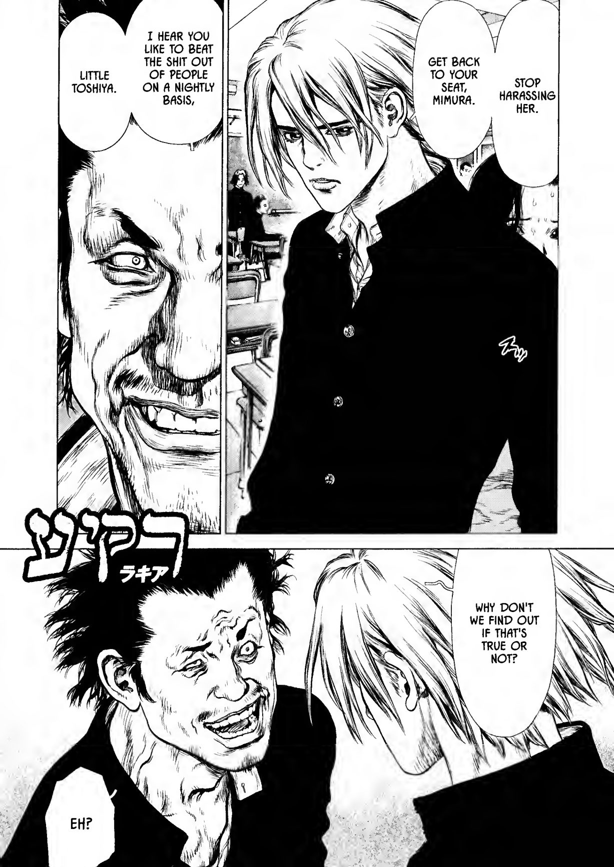

THAT'S WHY WE WERE BORN.
NO,
I *DO* WANT TO BECOME A PRIEST.
IT'S MY DREAM.
DON'T TOUCH HIS CHEEK, LUNA!
MY FATHER GAVE UP SO MUCH FOR ME.
MY DREAM IS TO MAKE HIM HAPPY...


AND... IF I BECOME A PRIEST, I CAN NEVER LOVE A WOMAN.
SO I'LL BE ABLE TO KEEP MY PROMISE TO ISA... MY PROMISE TO PROTECT LUNA, ALL MY LIFE.
YES...
THIS IS WHAT I WANT.

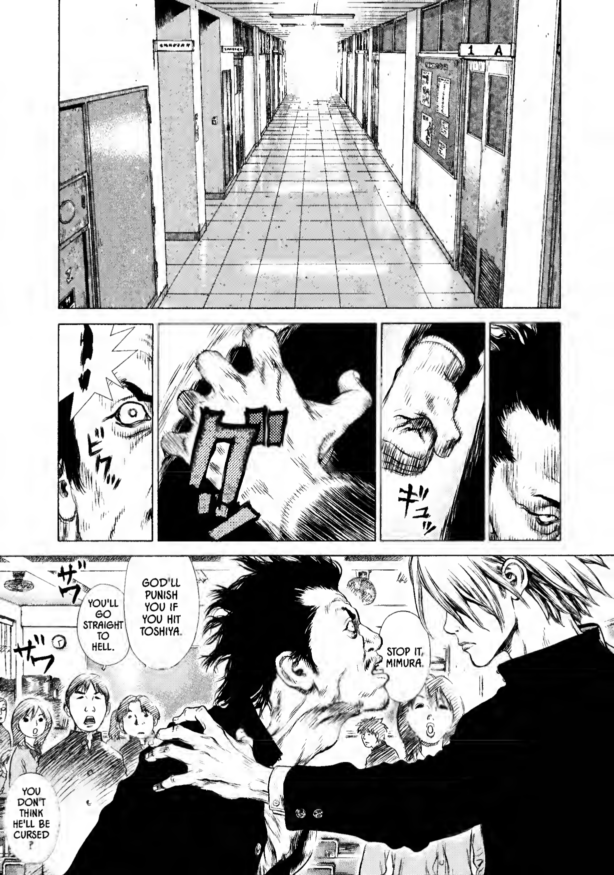

HEY, HAZUKI.
I HEARD YOUR FAMILY ALL GOT BLOWN UP IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT.
!
HOW COME *YOU* WEREN'T HURT?
ザワ
ザワ
WERE YOU OUT AT A HOTEL OR SOMETHING?
WITH A WHITE GUY?

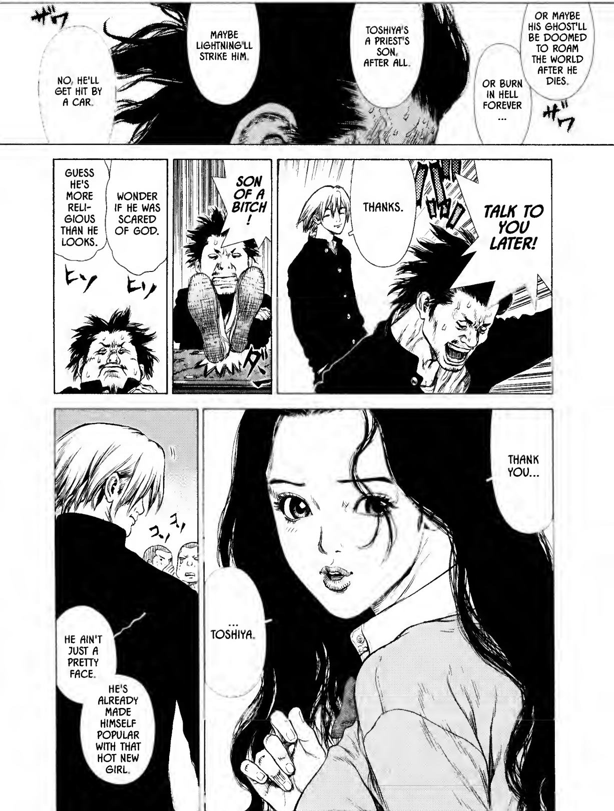

ドンッ
TOSHIYA.

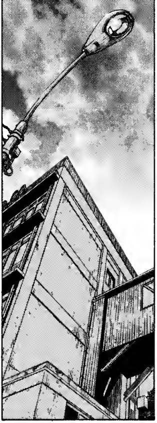

CUT IT OUT!
HUH? WHAT'S THE MATTER?
YOU ACT LIKE SUCH A ***GOODY-TWO-SHOES*** AT SCHOOL, SHIRAYANAGI.
BUT WORD ON THE STREET'S THAT YOU LIKE TO LET OFF ***STEAM*** AFTER SCHOOL.
THAT TRUE?
Codex-6/end

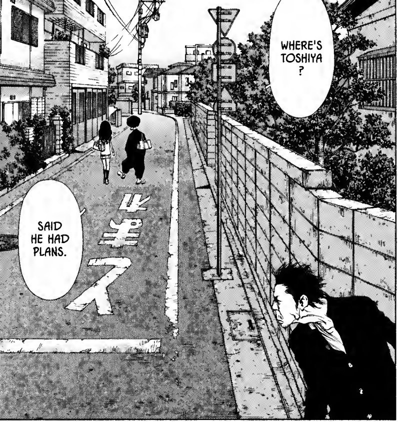

STOP HARASSING HER.
GET BACK TO YOUR SEAT, MIMURA.
ズッ
I HEAR YOU LIKE TO BEAT THE SHIT OUT OF PEOPLE ON A NIGHTLY BASIS,
LITTLE TOSHIYA.
רקיע
ラキア
WHY DON'T WE FIND OUT IF THAT'S TRUE OR NOT?
EH?

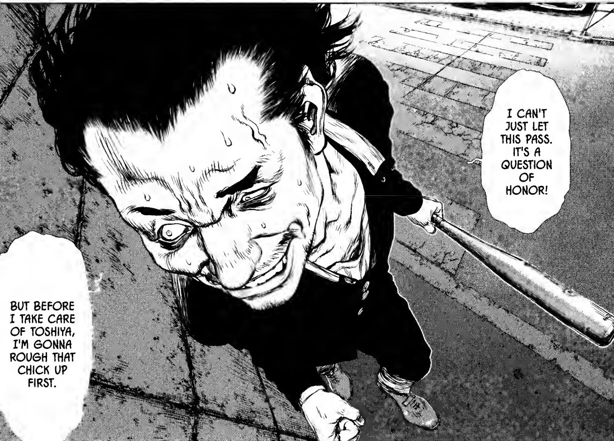
רקיע
Codex
7
After School

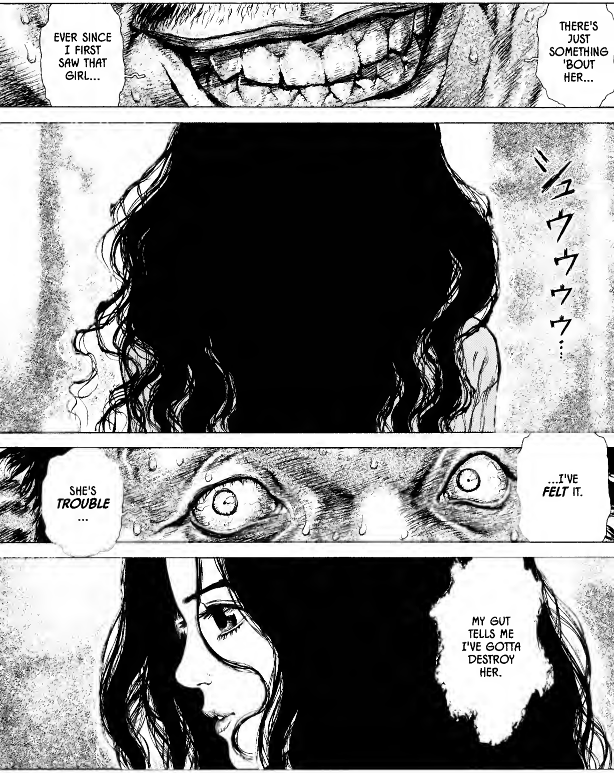

1 A
ギュッ
ガッ
ビクッ
STOP IT, MIMURA.
GOD'LL PUNISH YOU IF YOU HIT TOSHIYA.
YOU'LL GO STRAIGHT TO HELL.
ザワ
ザワ
YOU DON'T THINK HE'LL BE CURSED?

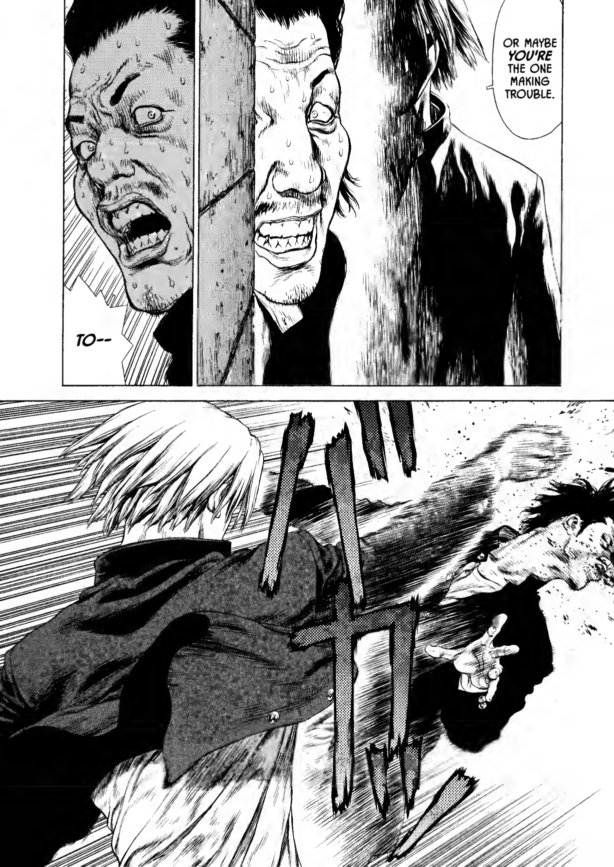

ザワ
OR MAYBE HIS GHOST'LL BE DOOMED TO ROAM THE WORLD AFTER HE DIES.
OR BURN IN HELL FOREVER...
TOSHIYA'S A PRIEST'S SON, AFTER ALL.
MAYBE LIGHTNING'LL STRIKE HIM.
NO, HE'LL GET HIT BY A CAR.
ザワ
TALK TO YOU LATER!
THANKS.
SON OF A BITCH!
ダッ
WONDER IF HE WAS SCARED OF GOD.
GUESS HE'S MORE RELIGIOUS THAN HE LOOKS.
ヒソ
ヒソ
THANK YOU...
...TOSHIYA.
HE AIN'T JUST A PRETTY FACE.
HE'S ALREADY MADE HIMSELF POPULAR WITH THAT HOT NEW GIRL.

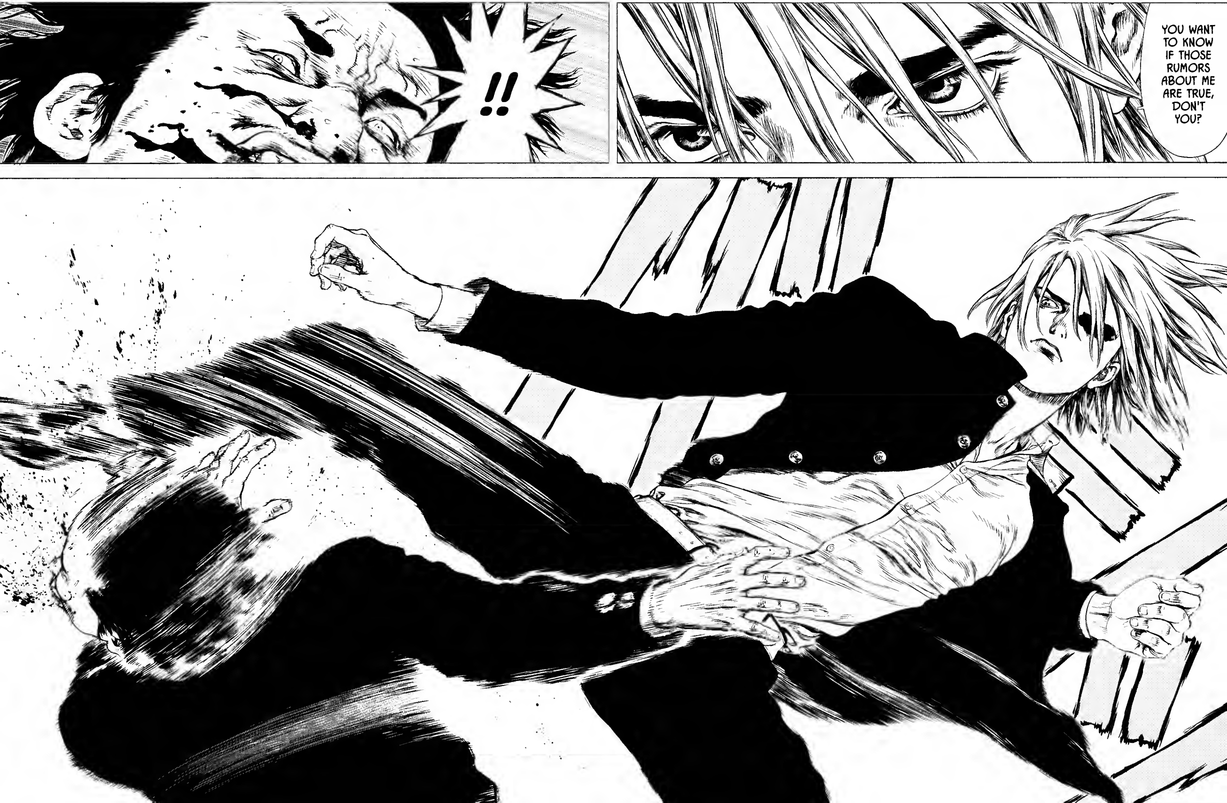


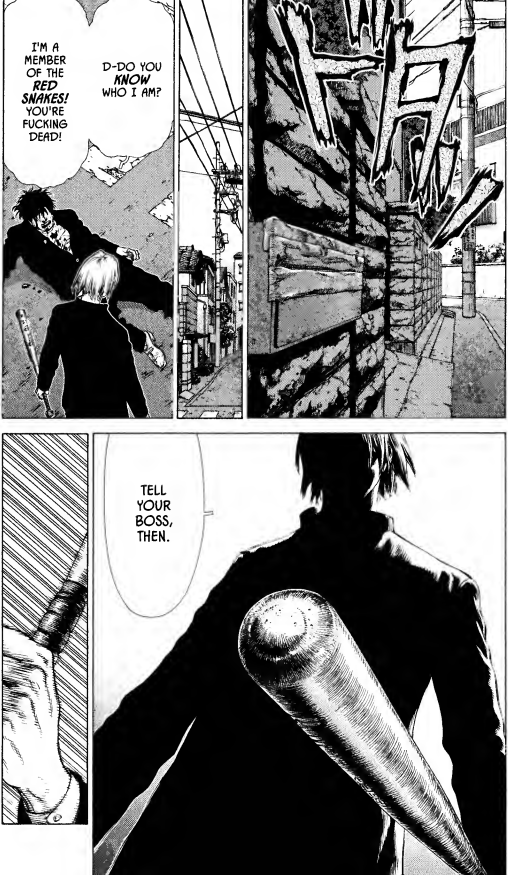

WHERE'S TOSHIYA?
SAID HE HAD PLANS.

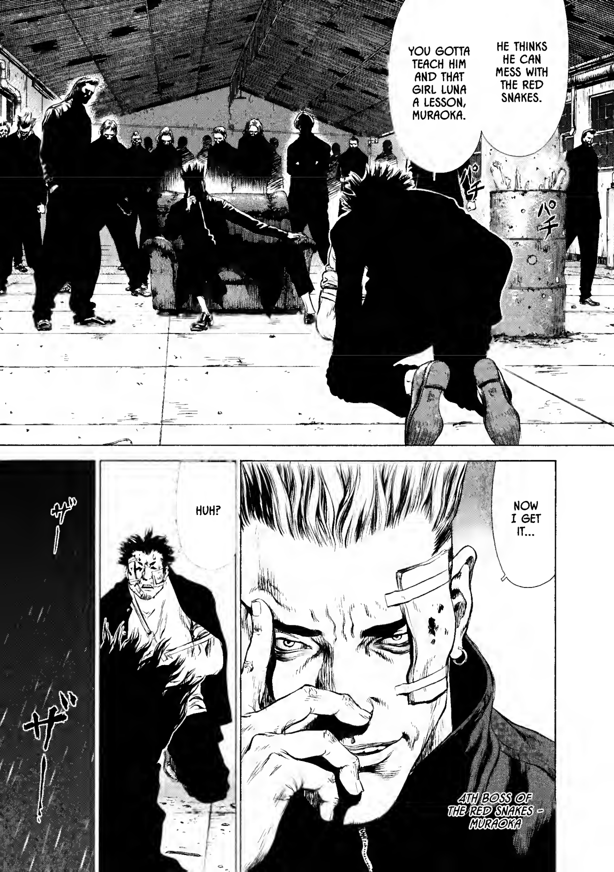

I CAN'T JUST LET THIS PASS. IT'S A QUESTION OF HONOR!
BUT BEFORE I TAKE CARE OF TOSHIYA, I'M GONNA ROUGH THAT CHICK UP FIRST.

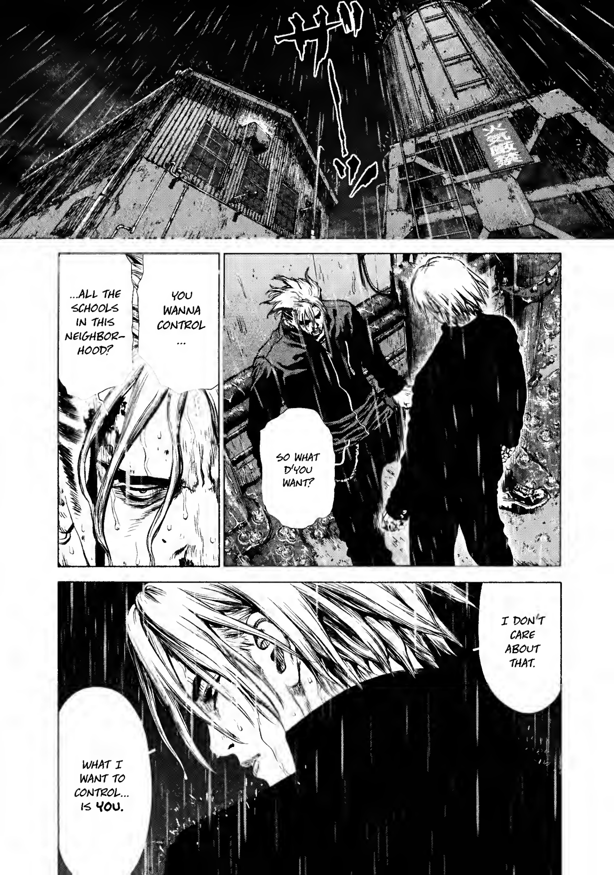

THERE'S JUST SOMETHING 'BOUT HER...
EVER SINCE I FIRST SAW THAT GIRL...
シュウウウウ…
...I'VE *FELT* IT.
SHE'S *TROUBLE* ...
MY GUT TELLS ME I'VE GOTTA DESTROY HER.

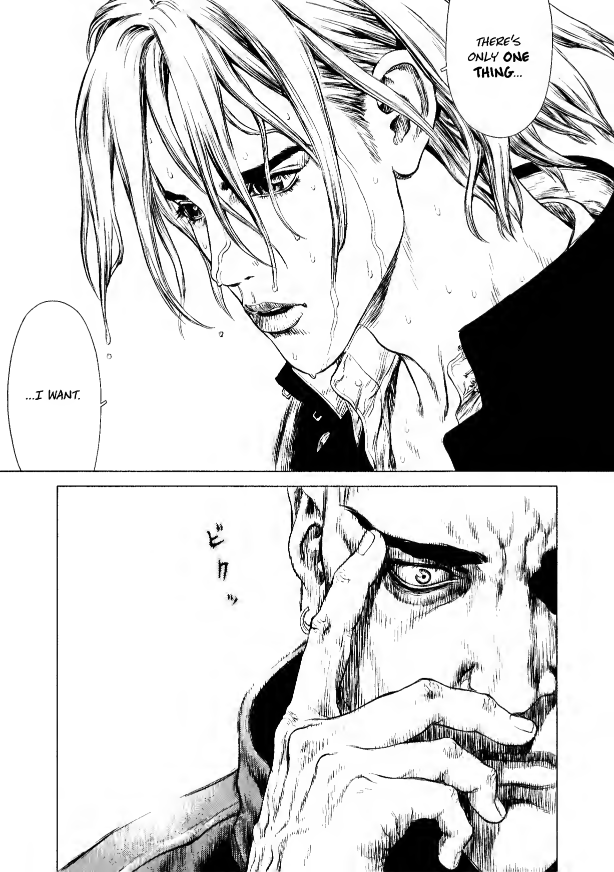

OR MAYBE *YOU'RE* THE ONE MAKING TROUBLE.
TO--

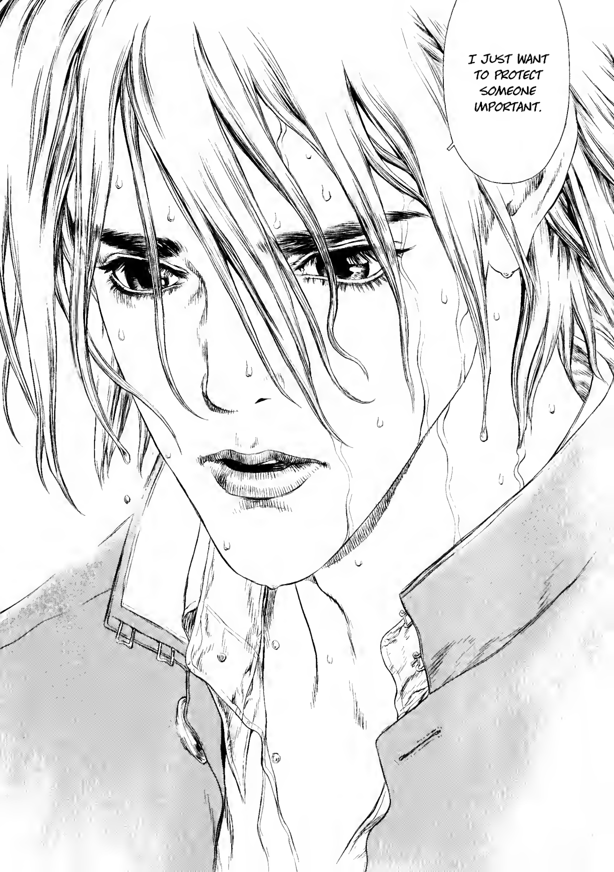

YOU WANT TO KNOW IF THOSE RUMORS ABOUT ME ARE TRUE, DON'T YOU?
!!

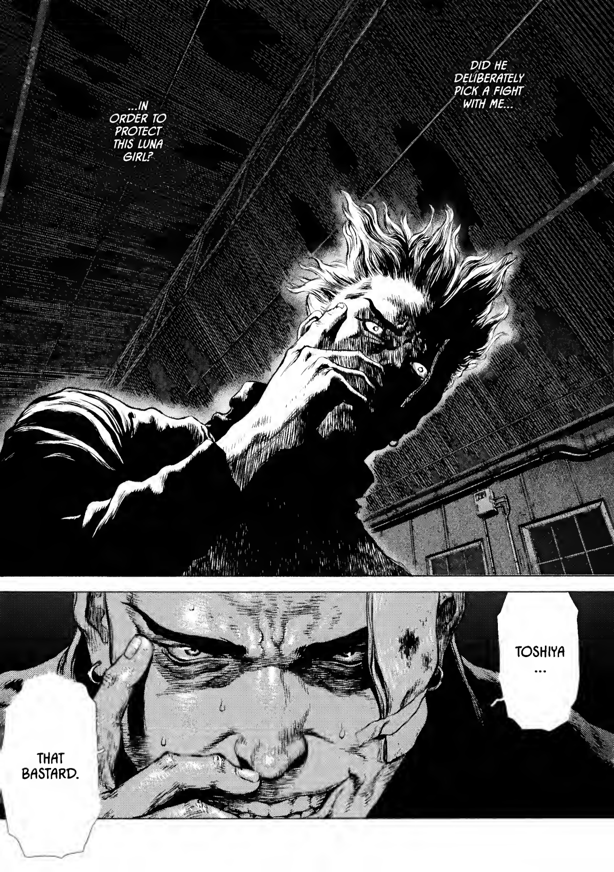

D-DO YOU KNOW WHO I AM?
I'M A MEMBER OF THE RED SNAKES! YOU'RE FUCKING DEAD!
TELL YOUR BOSS, THEN.

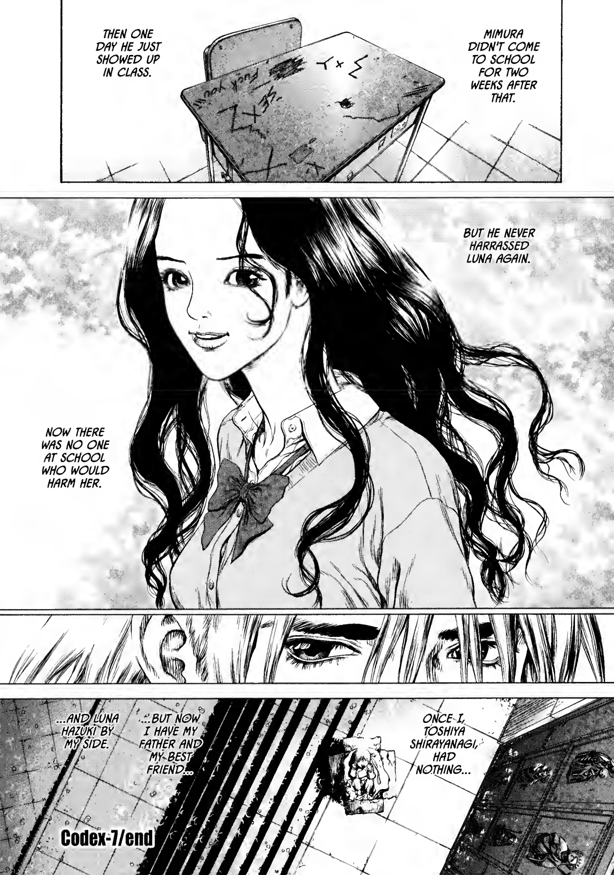

HE THINKS HE CAN MESS WITH THE RED SNAKES.
YOU GOTTA TEACH HIM AND THAT GIRL LUNA A LESSON, MURAOKA.
パチ
パチ
NOW I GET IT...
4TH BOSS OF THE RED SNAKES - MURAOKA
HUH?
ザー
ザァー

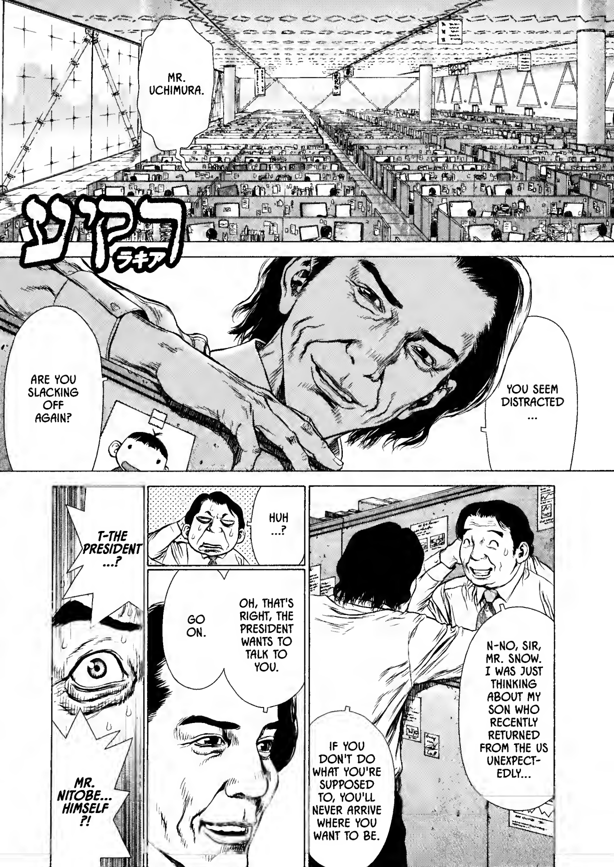

ザーッ
火気厳禁
SO WHAT D'YOU WANT?
YOU WANNA CONTROL ...
...ALL THE SCHOOLS IN THIS NEIGHBORHOOD?
I DON'T CARE ABOUT THAT.
WHAT I WANT TO CONTROL... IS **YOU**.

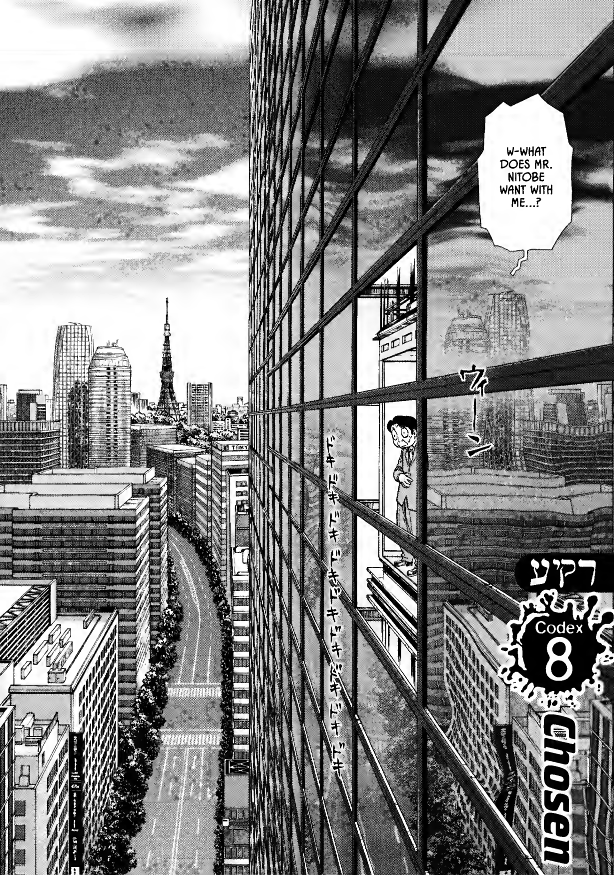

THERE'S ONLY **ONE THING**...
...I WANT.
ビクッ


I JUST WANT TO PROTECT SOMEONE IMPORTANT.


DID HE DELIBERATELY PICK A FIGHT WITH ME...
...IN ORDER TO PROTECT THIS LUNA GIRL?
TOSHIYA ...
THAT BASTARD.


MIMURA DIDN'T COME TO SCHOOL FOR TWO WEEKS AFTER THAT.
THEN ONE DAY HE JUST SHOWED UP IN CLASS.
Fuck you!!!
BUT HE NEVER HARRASSED LUNA AGAIN.
NOW THERE WAS NO ONE AT SCHOOL WHO WOULD HARM HER.
ONCE I, TOSHIYA SHIRAYANAGI, HAD NOTHING...
...BUT NOW I HAVE MY FATHER AND MY BEST FRIEND...
...AND LUNA HAZUKI BY MY SIDE.
Codex-7/end

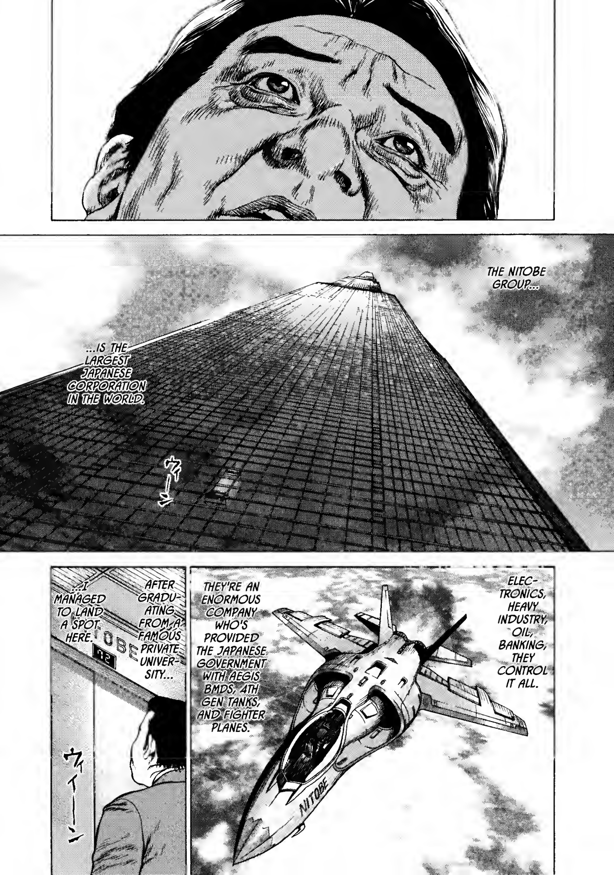

MR. UCHIMURA.
רקיע
ラキア
YOU SEEM DISTRACTED...
ARE YOU SLACKING OFF AGAIN?
N-NO, SIR, MR. SNOW. I WAS JUST THINKING ABOUT MY SON WHO RECENTLY RETURNED FROM THE US UNEXPECTEDLY...
IF YOU DON'T DO WHAT YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO, YOU'LL NEVER ARRIVE WHERE YOU WANT TO BE.
HUH...?
OH, THAT'S RIGHT, THE PRESIDENT WANTS TO TALK TO YOU.
GO ON.
T-THE PRESIDENT...?
MR. NITOBE... HIMSELF?!

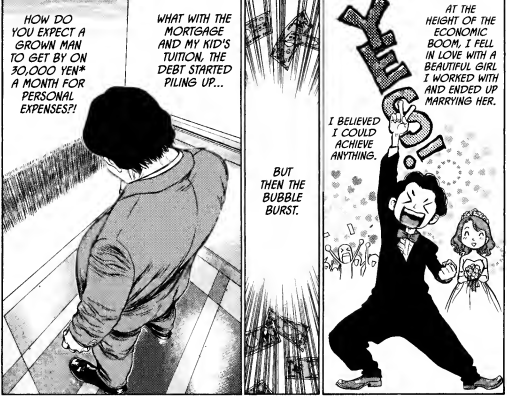

W-WHAT DOES MR. NITOBE WANT WITH ME...?
ウィーン
ドキドキドキドキドキドキドキドキドキ

רקיע

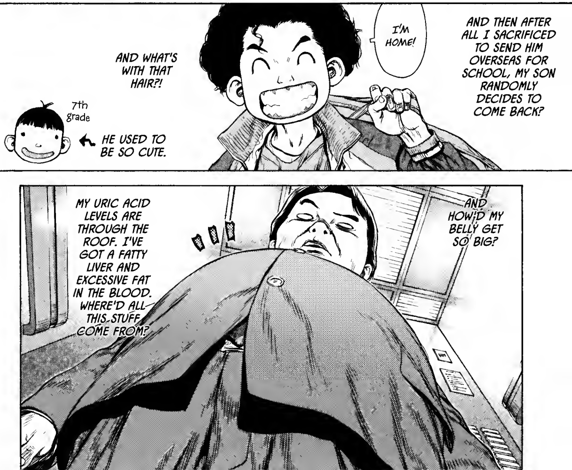
Codex 8

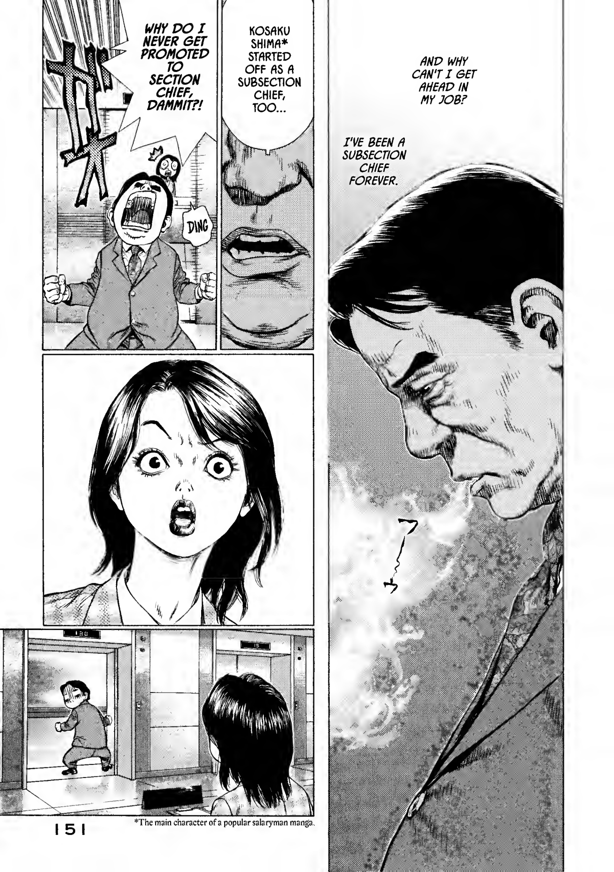
Chosen


THE NITOBE GROUP...
...IS THE LARGEST JAPANESE CORPORATION IN THE WORLD.
ウィーン
ELECTRONICS, HEAVY INDUSTRY, OIL, BANKING, THEY CONTROL IT ALL.
THEY'RE AN ENORMOUS COMPANY WHO'S PROVIDED THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT WITH AEGIS BMDS, 4TH GEN TANKS, AND FIGHTER PLANES.
NITOBE
AFTER GRADUATING FROM A FAMOUS PRIVATE UNIVERSITY...
...I MANAGED TO LAND A SPOT HERE.
IOBE
ウィーン


AT THE HEIGHT OF THE ECONOMIC BOOM, I FELL IN LOVE WITH A BEAUTIFUL GIRL I WORKED WITH AND ENDED UP MARRYING HER.
YES!!
I BELIEVED I COULD ACHIEVE ANYTHING.
BUT THEN THE BUBBLE BURST.
WHAT WITH THE MORTGAGE AND MY KID'S TUITION, THE DEBT STARTED PILING UP...
HOW DO YOU EXPECT A GROWN MAN TO GET BY ON 30,000 YEN* A MONTH FOR PERSONAL EXPENSES?!

*About $360.


AND THEN AFTER ALL I SACRIFICED TO SEND HIM OVERSEAS FOR SCHOOL, MY SON RANDOMLY DECIDES TO COME BACK?
I'M HOME!
AND WHAT'S WITH THAT HAIR?!
7th grade
HE USED TO BE SO CUTE.
AND HOW'D MY BELLY GET SO BIG?
MY URIC ACID LEVELS ARE THROUGH THE ROOF. I'VE GOT A FATTY LIVER AND EXCESSIVE FAT IN THE BLOOD. WHERE'D ALL THIS STUFF COME FROM?


AND WHY CAN'T I GET AHEAD IN MY JOB?
I'VE BEEN A SUBSECTION CHIEF FOREVER.
フーッ
KOSAKU SHIMA* STARTED OFF AS A SUBSECTION CHIEF, TOO...
WHY DO I NEVER GET PROMOTED TO SECTION CHIEF, DAMMIT?!
DING

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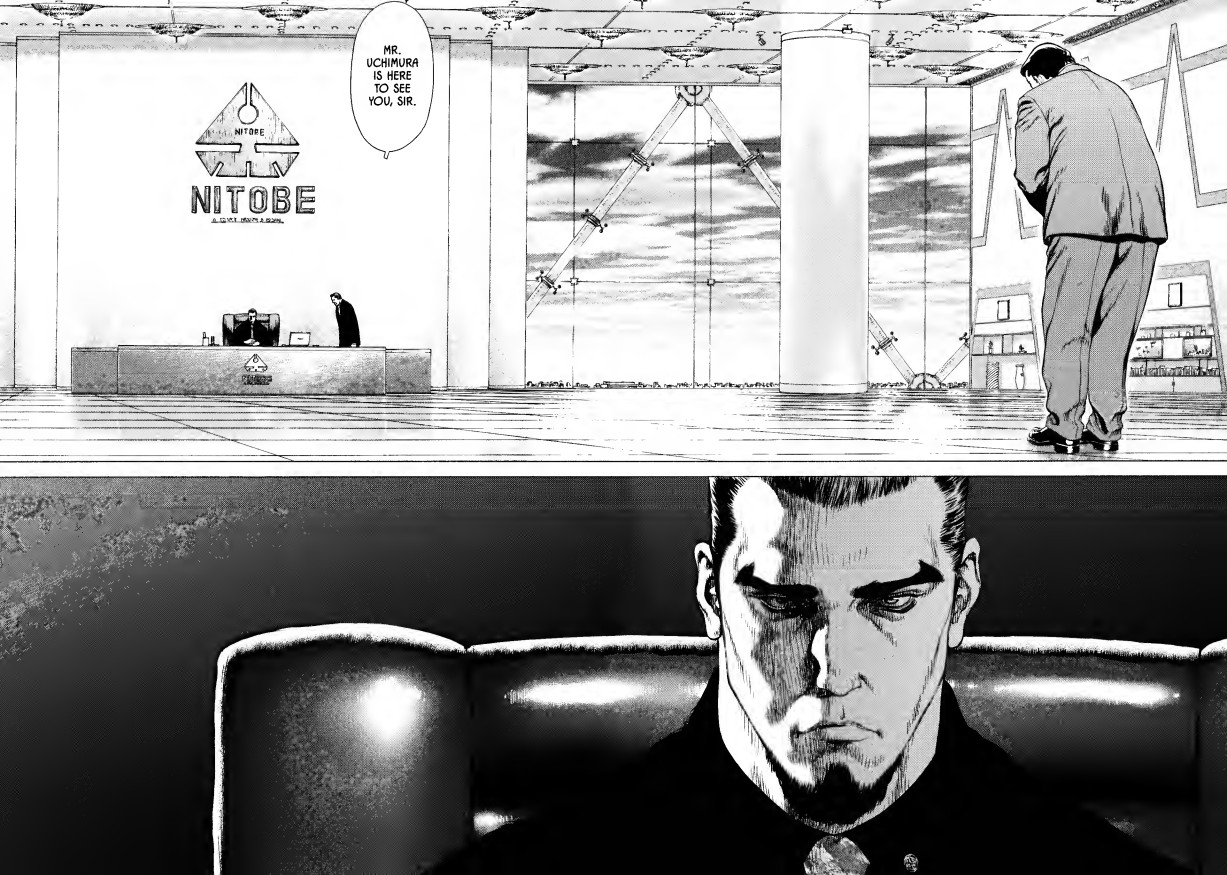
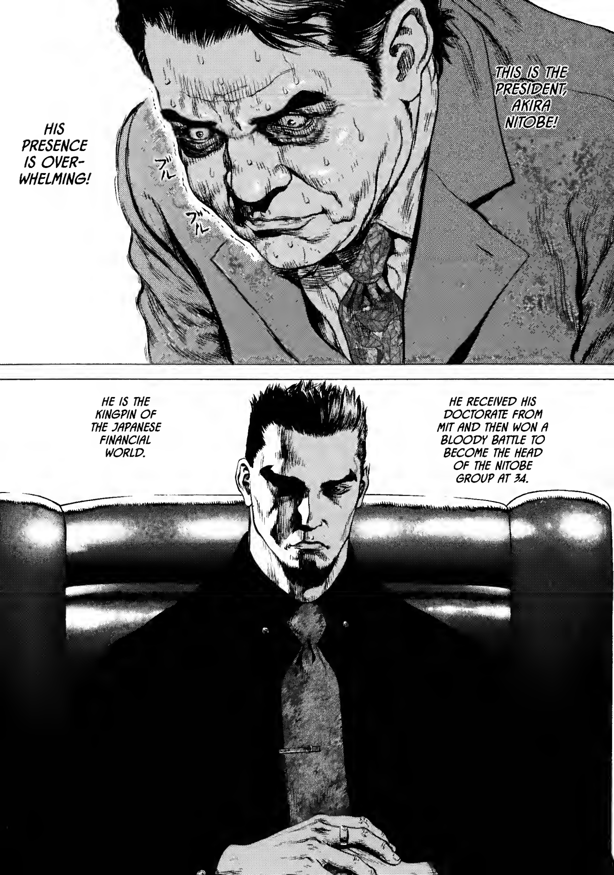
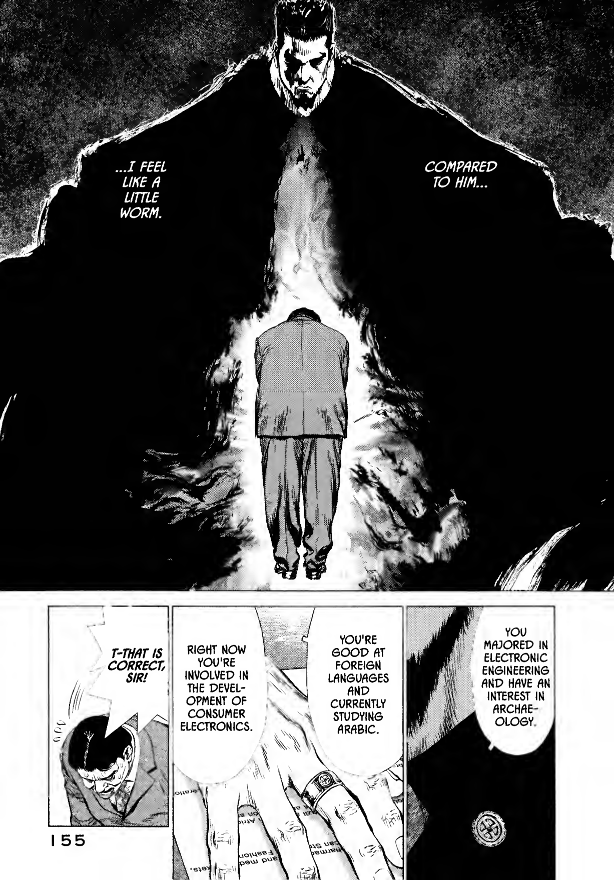
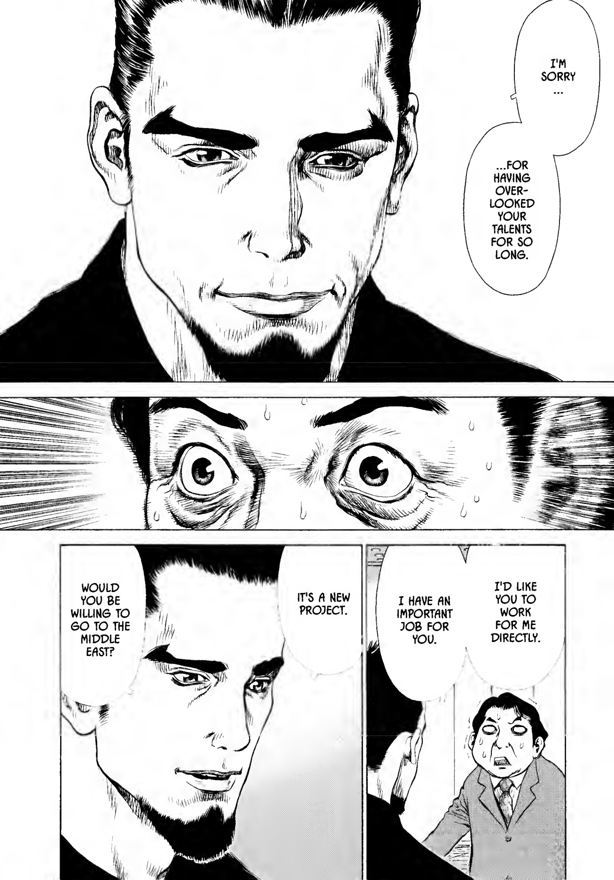
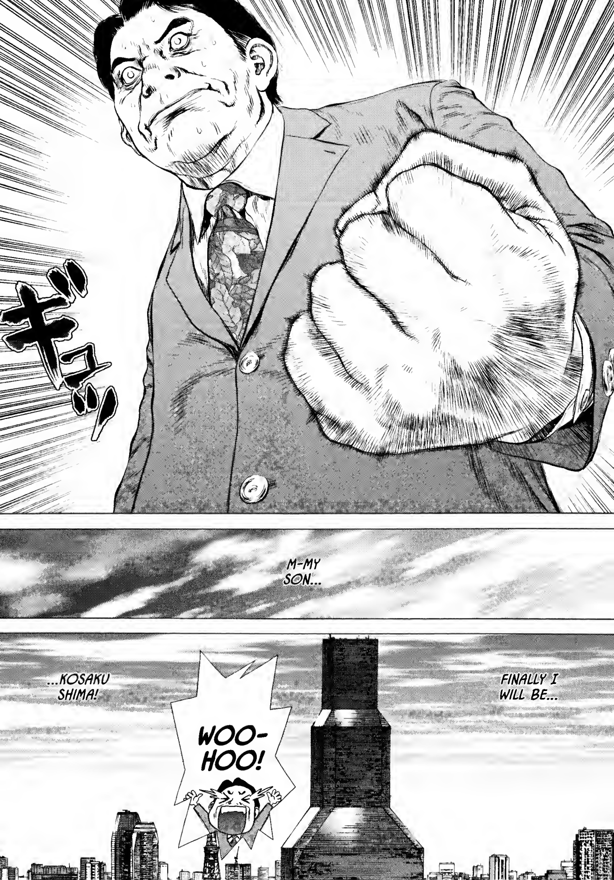
*The main character of a popular salaryman manga.

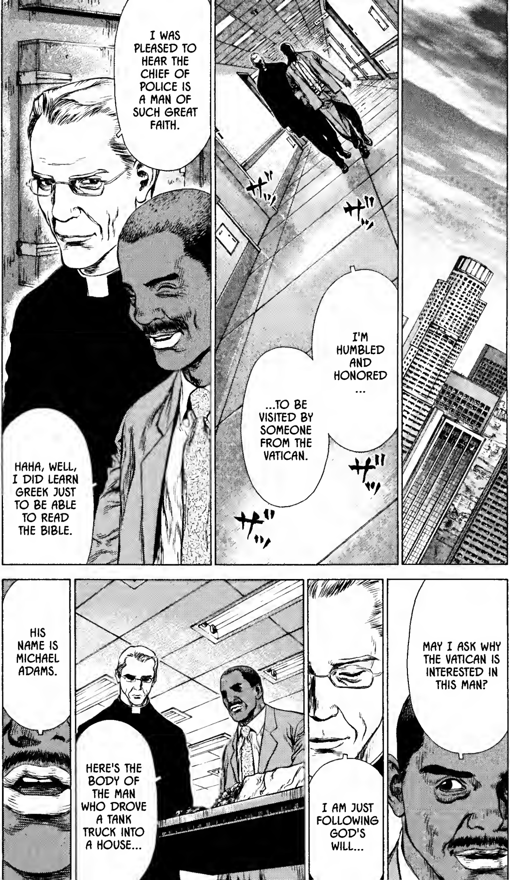

NITOBE
NITOBE
MR. UCHIMURA IS HERE TO SEE YOU, SIR.


THIS IS THE PRESIDENT, AKIRA NITOBE!
ブル
ブル
HIS PRESENCE IS OVERWHELMING!
HE RECEIVED HIS DOCTORATE FROM MIT AND THEN WON A BLOODY BATTLE TO BECOME THE HEAD OF THE NITOBE GROUP AT 34.
HE IS THE KINGPIN OF THE JAPANESE FINANCIAL WORLD.


COMPARED TO HIM...
...I FEEL LIKE A LITTLE WORM.
YOU MAJORED IN ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING AND HAVE AN INTEREST IN ARCHAEOLOGY.
YOU'RE GOOD AT FOREIGN LANGUAGES AND CURRENTLY STUDYING ARABIC.
RIGHT NOW YOU'RE INVOLVED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF CONSUMER ELECTRONICS.
T-THAT IS CORRECT, SIR!


I'M SORRY ...
...FOR HAVING OVERLOOKED YOUR TALENTS FOR SO LONG.
I'D LIKE YOU TO WORK FOR ME DIRECTLY.
I HAVE AN IMPORTANT JOB FOR YOU.
IT'S A NEW PROJECT.
WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO GO TO THE MIDDLE EAST?


ギュッ
M-MY SON...
FINALLY I WILL BE...
...KOSAKU SHIMA!
WOO-HOO!


I'M HUMBLED AND HONORED ...
...TO BE VISITED BY SOMEONE FROM THE VATICAN.
ザッ
ザッ
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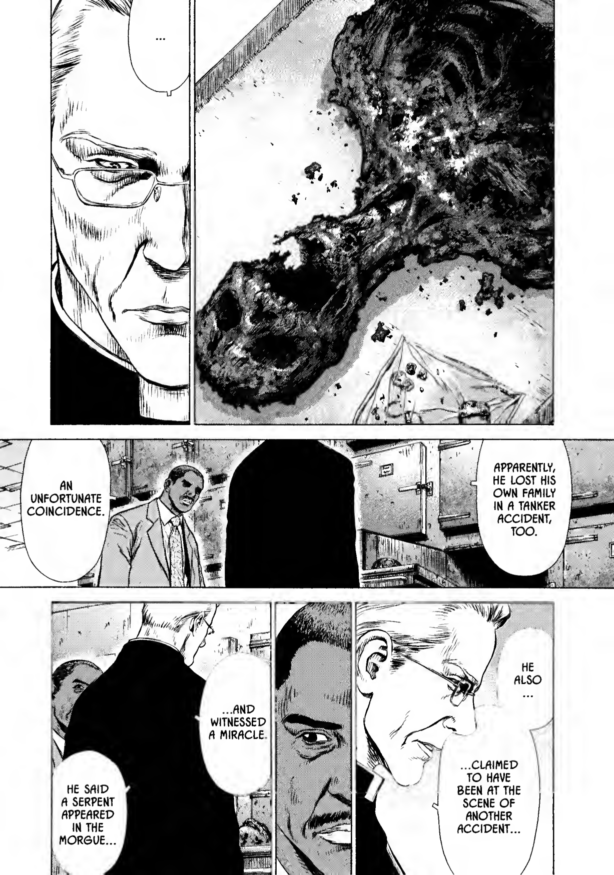
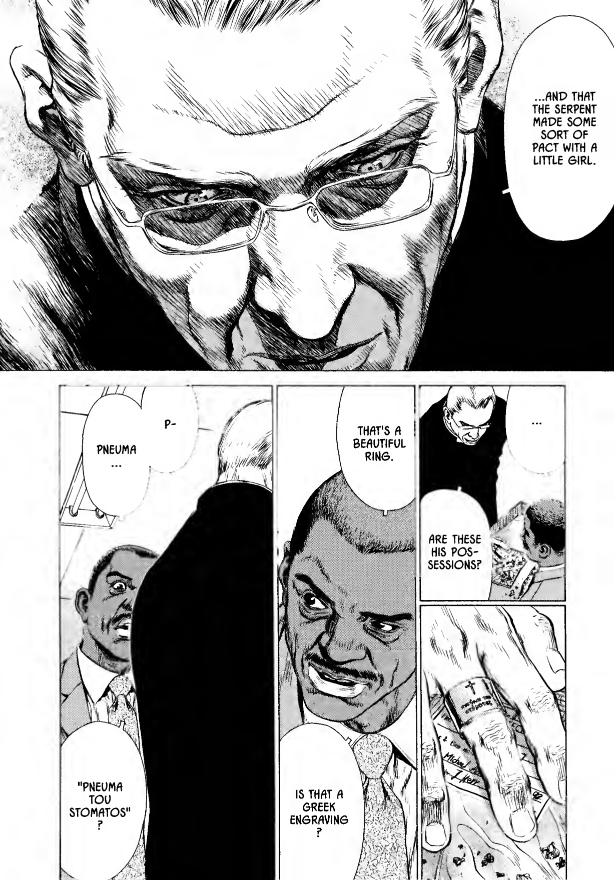
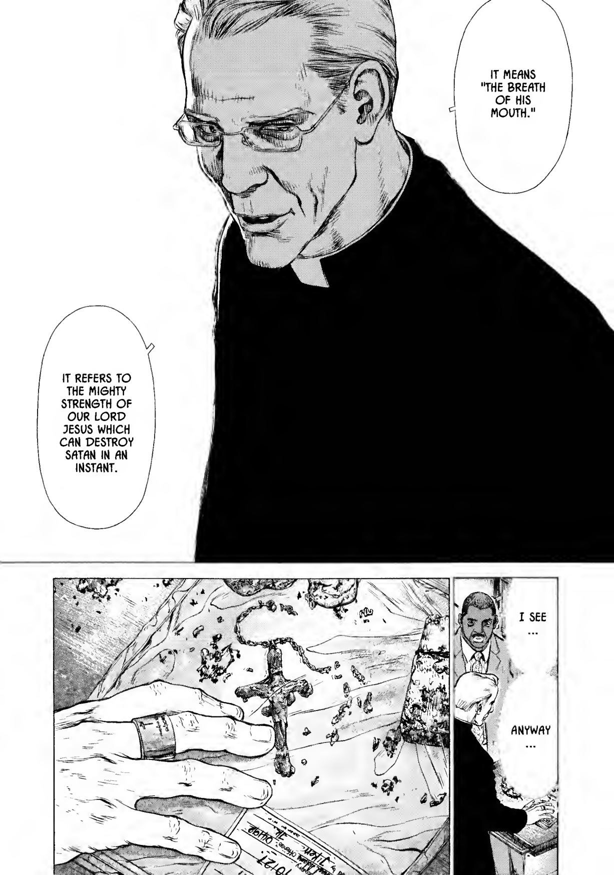
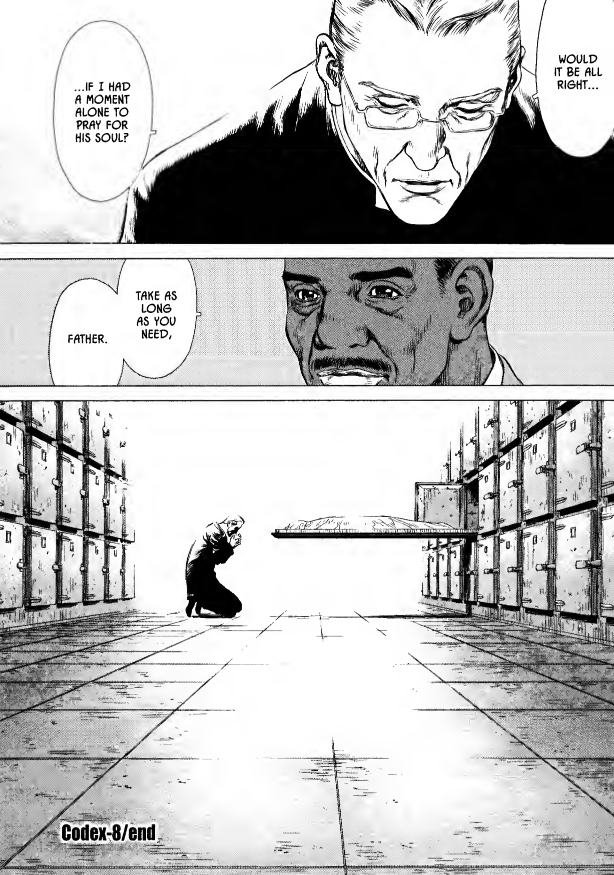
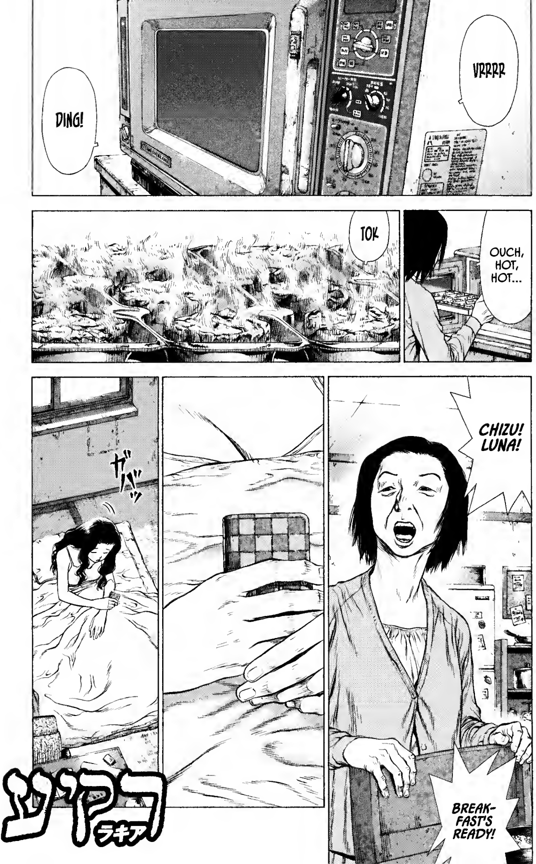
ザッ
I WAS PLEASED TO HEAR THE CHIEF OF POLICE IS A MAN OF SUCH GREAT FAITH.
HAHA, WELL, I DID LEARN GREEK JUST TO BE ABLE TO READ THE BIBLE.
MAY I ASK WHY THE VATICAN IS INTERESTED IN THIS MAN?
I AM JUST FOLLOWING GOD'S WILL...
HERE'S THE BODY OF THE MAN WHO DROVE A TANK TRUCK INTO A HOUSE...
HIS NAME IS MICHAEL ADAMS.

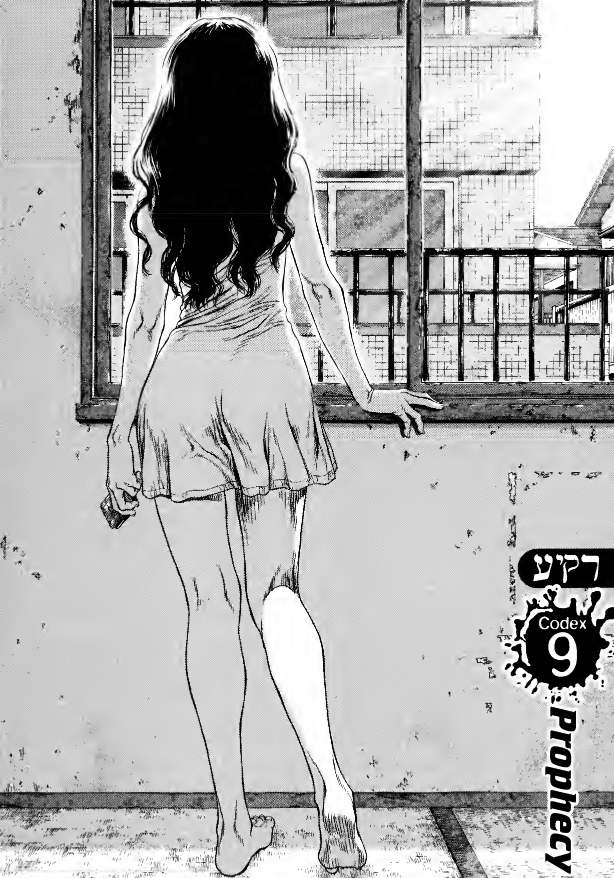

...
APPARENTLY, HE LOST HIS OWN FAMILY IN A TANKER ACCIDENT, TOO.
AN UNFORTUNATE COINCIDENCE.
HE ALSO ...
...CLAIMED TO HAVE BEEN AT THE SCENE OF ANOTHER ACCIDENT...
HE SAID A SERPENT APPEARED IN THE MORGUE...
...AND WITNESSED A MIRACLE.

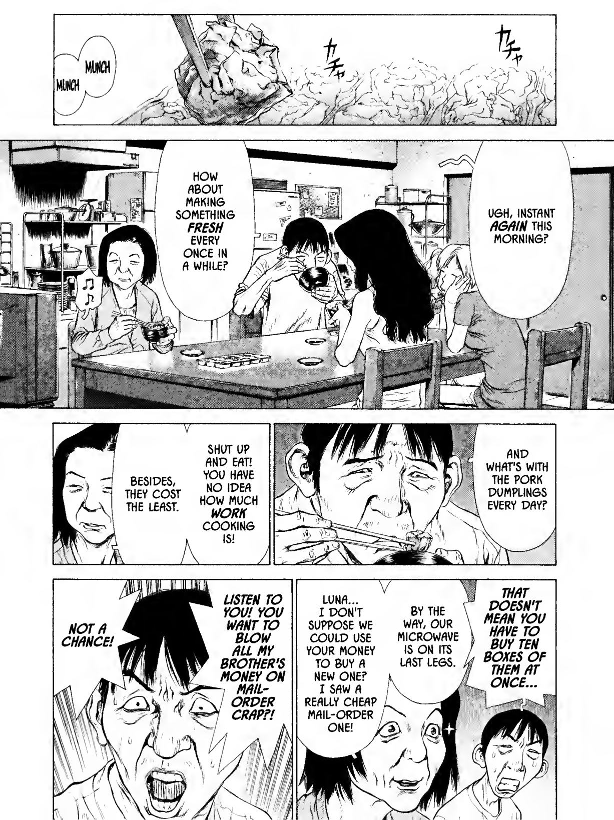

...AND THAT THE SERPENT MADE SOME SORT OF PACT WITH A LITTLE GIRL.
...
ARE THESE HIS POSSESSIONS?
THAT'S A BEAUTIFUL RING.
IS THAT A GREEK ENGRAVING?
P-
PNEUMA ...
"PNEUMA TOU STOMATOS"?

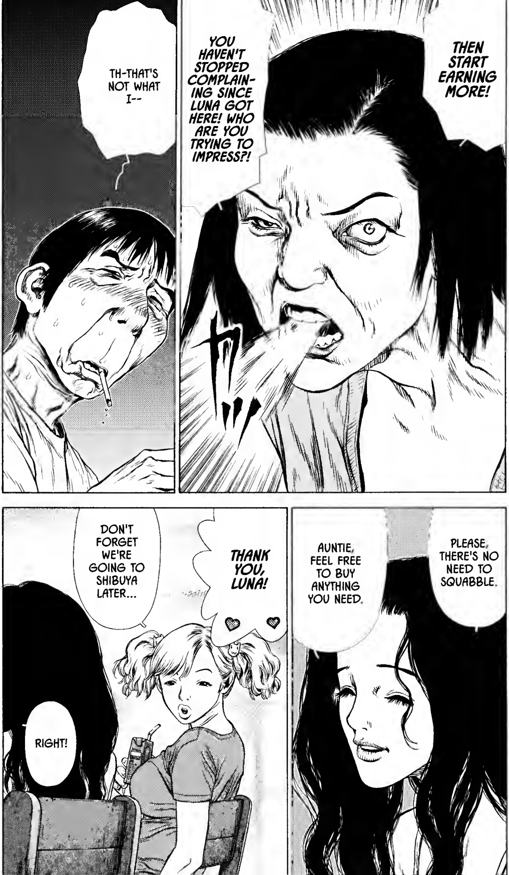

IT MEANS "THE BREATH OF HIS MOUTH."
IT REFERS TO THE MIGHTY STRENGTH OF OUR LORD JESUS WHICH CAN DESTROY SATAN IN AN INSTANT.
I SEE ...
ANYWAY ...

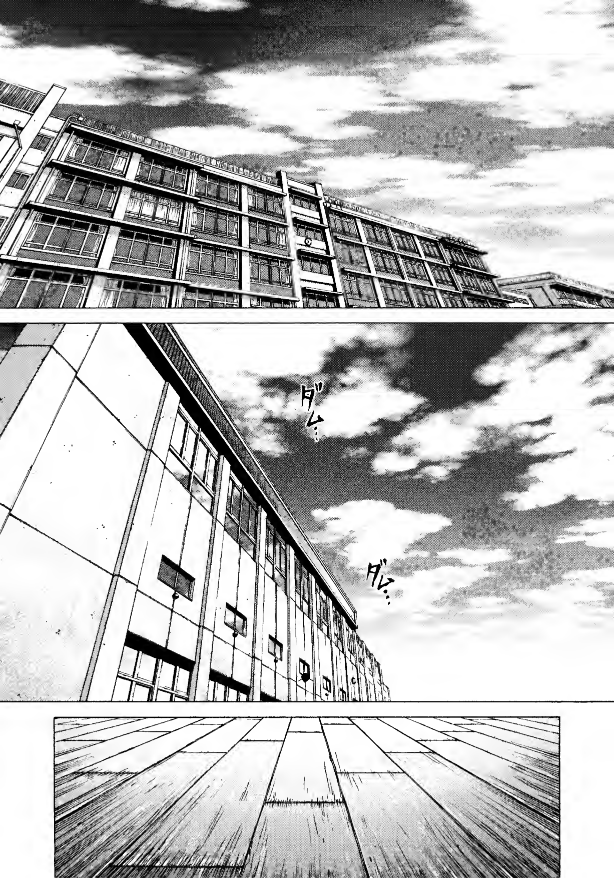

WOULD IT BE ALL RIGHT...
...IF I HAD A MOMENT ALONE TO PRAY FOR HIS SOUL?
TAKE AS LONG AS YOU NEED,
FATHER.
Codex-8/end

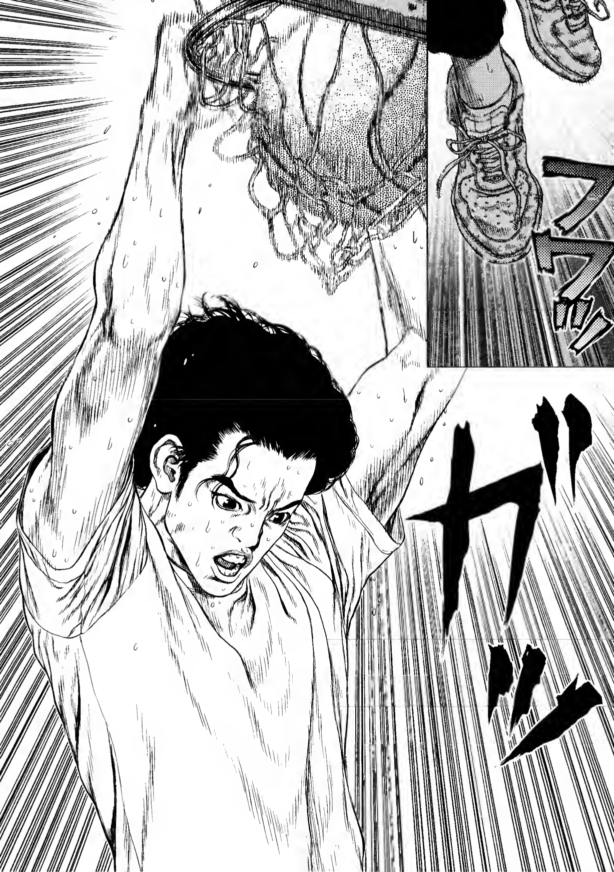

VRRRR
DING!
OUCH, HOT, HOT...
TOK
CHIZU! LUNA!
BREAK-FAST'S READY!
ガバッ
רקיע
ラキア

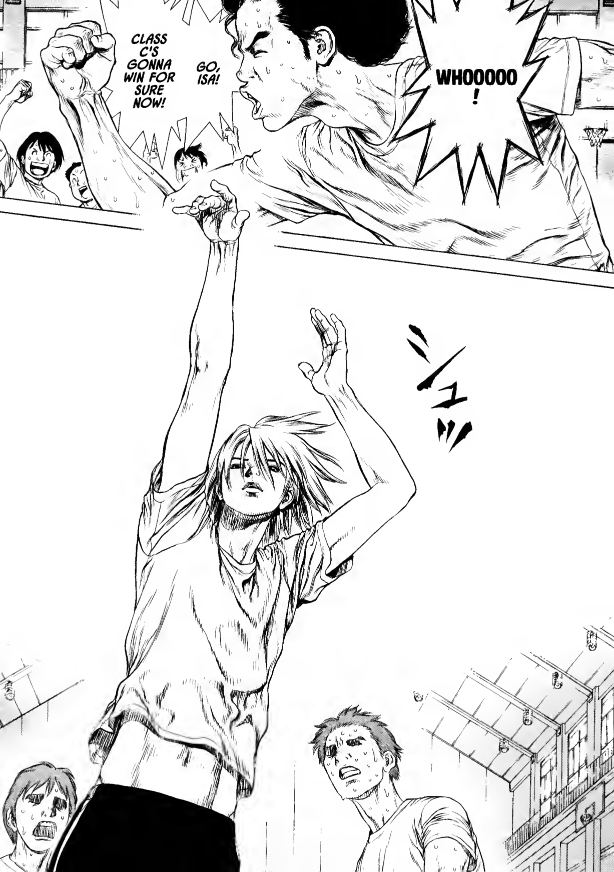

רקיע
Codex
9
Prophecy

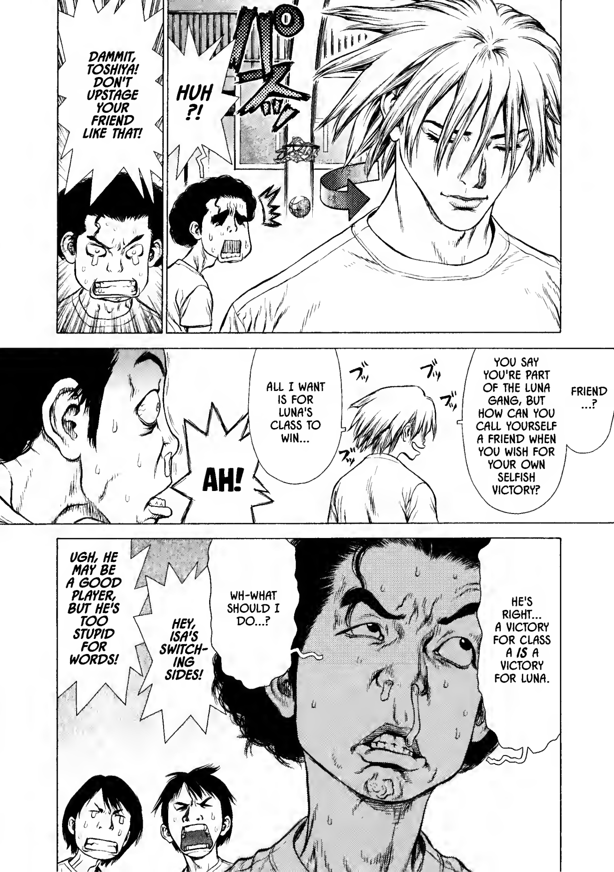

カチャ
カチャ
MUNCH MUNCH
UGH, INSTANT AGAIN THIS MORNING?
HOW ABOUT MAKING SOMETHING FRESH EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE?
♫ ♪
AND WHAT'S WITH THE PORK DUMPLINGS EVERY DAY?
SHUT UP AND EAT! YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW MUCH WORK COOKING IS!
BESIDES, THEY COST THE LEAST.
THAT DOESN'T MEAN YOU HAVE TO BUY TEN BOXES OF THEM AT ONCE...
BY THE WAY, OUR MICROWAVE IS ON ITS LAST LEGS.
LUNA... I DON'T SUPPOSE WE COULD USE YOUR MONEY TO BUY A NEW ONE? I SAW A REALLY CHEAP MAIL-ORDER ONE!
LISTEN TO YOU! YOU WANT TO BLOW ALL MY BROTHER'S MONEY ON MAIL-ORDER CRAP?!
NOT A CHANCE!

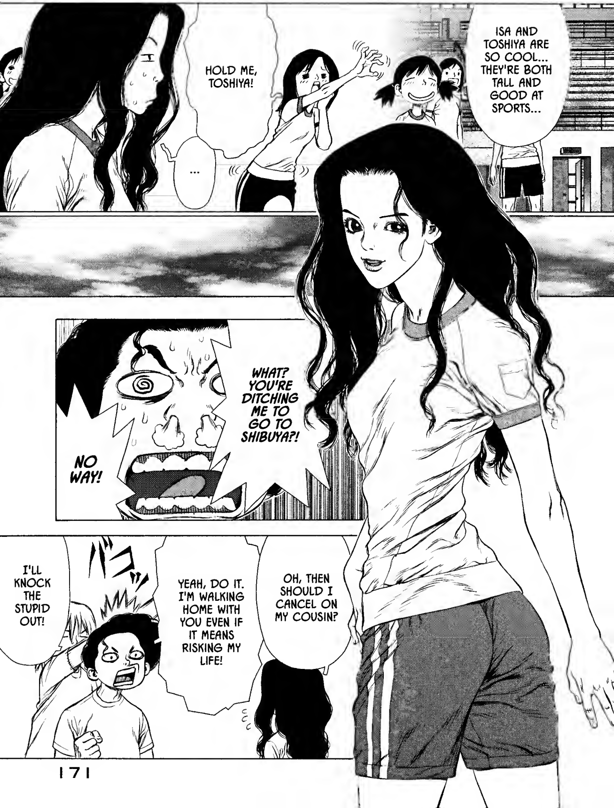

THEN START EARNING MORE!
YOU HAVEN'T STOPPED COMPLAINING SINCE LUNA GOT HERE! WHO ARE YOU TRYING TO IMPRESS?!
カッ
TH-THAT'S NOT WHAT I--
PLEASE, THERE'S NO NEED TO SQUABBLE.
AUNTIE, FEEL FREE TO BUY ANYTHING YOU NEED.
THANK YOU, LUNA!
DON'T FORGET WE'RE GOING TO SHIBUYA LATER...
RIGHT!

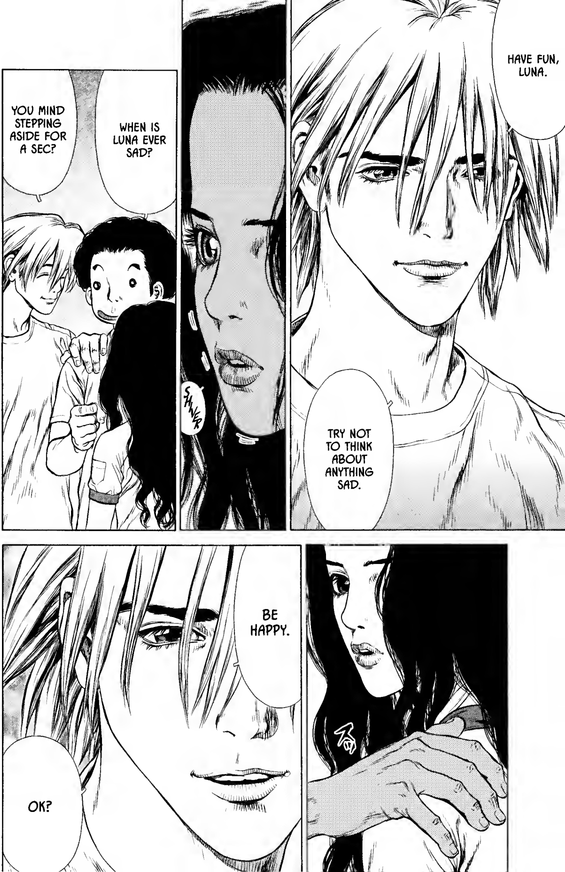

ダム…
ダム…

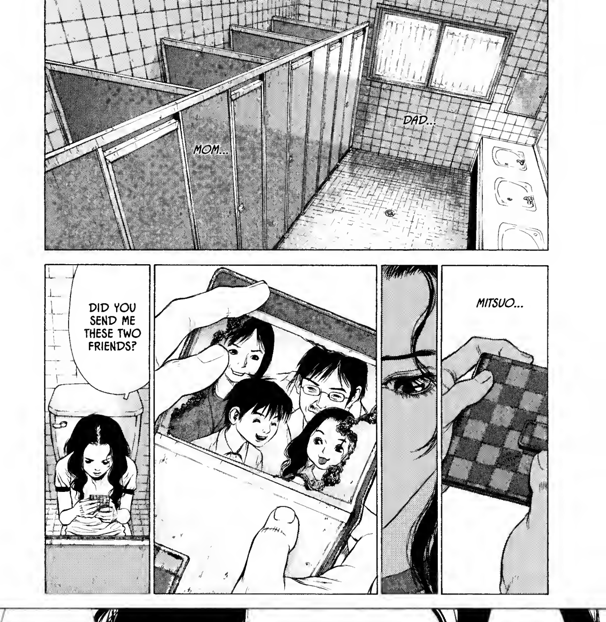

フワッ
ガッ

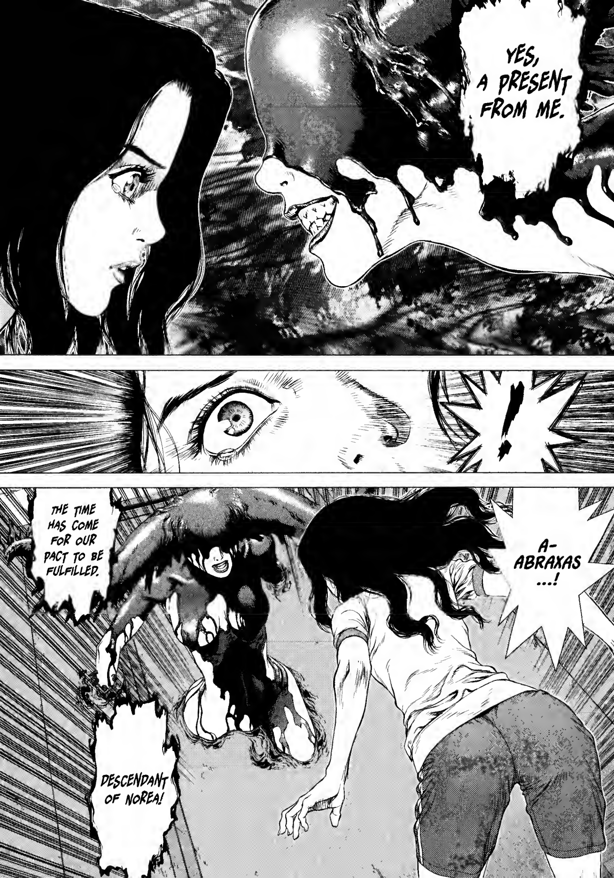

WHOOOOO!
GO, ISA!
CLASS C'S GONNA WIN FOR SURE NOW!
シュッ

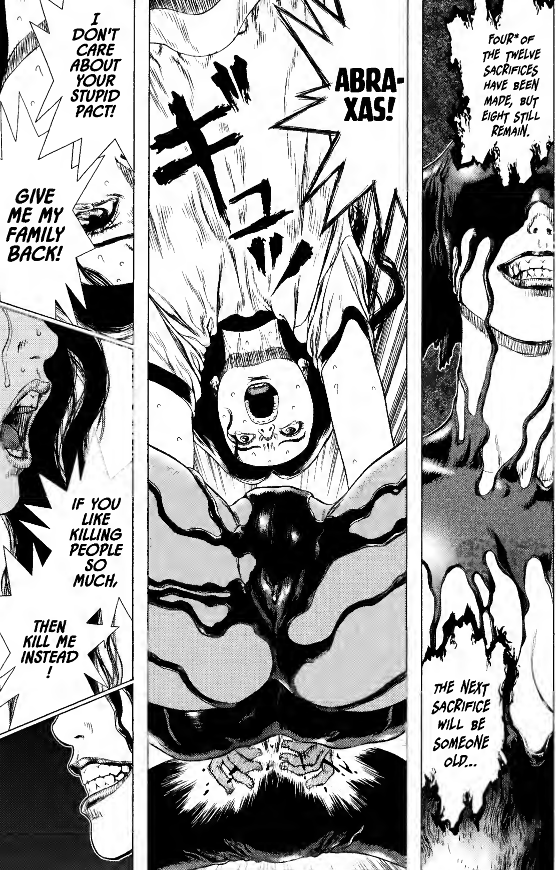

パス
HUH ?!
DAMMIT, TOSHIYA! DON'T UPSTAGE YOUR FRIEND LIKE THAT!
FRIEND ...?
YOU SAY YOU'RE PART OF THE LUNA GANG, BUT HOW CAN YOU CALL YOURSELF A FRIEND WHEN YOU WISH FOR YOUR OWN SELFISH VICTORY?
ブッ ブッ ブッ ブッ
ALL I WANT IS FOR LUNA'S CLASS TO WIN...
AH!
HE'S RIGHT... A VICTORY FOR CLASS A *IS* A VICTORY FOR LUNA.
WH-WHAT SHOULD I DO...?
HEY, ISA'S SWITCHING SIDES!
UGH, HE MAY BE A GOOD PLAYER, BUT HE'S TOO STUPID FOR WORDS!


ISA AND TOSHIYA ARE SO COOL... THEY'RE BOTH TALL AND GOOD AT SPORTS...
HOLD ME, TOSHIYA!
...
WHAT? YOU'RE DITCHING ME TO GO TO SHIBUYA?!
NO WAY!
OH, THEN SHOULD I CANCEL ON MY COUSIN?
YEAH, DO IT. I'M WALKING HOME WITH YOU EVEN IF IT MEANS RISKING MY LIFE!
I'LL KNOCK THE STUPID OUT!

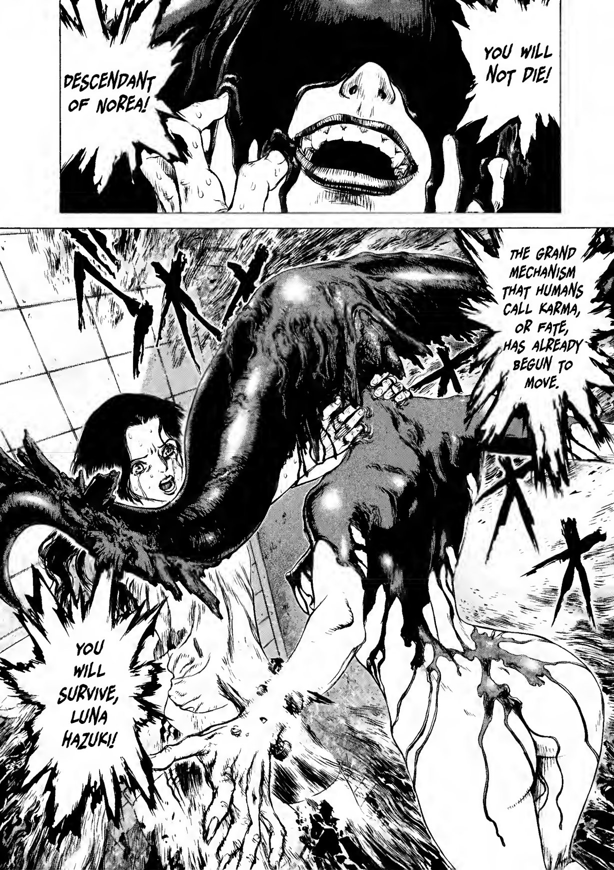

HAVE FUN, LUNA.
TRY NOT TO THINK ABOUT ANYTHING SAD.
SHIVER
WHEN IS LUNA EVER SAD?
YOU MIND STEPPING ASIDE FOR A SEC?
BE HAPPY.
OK?

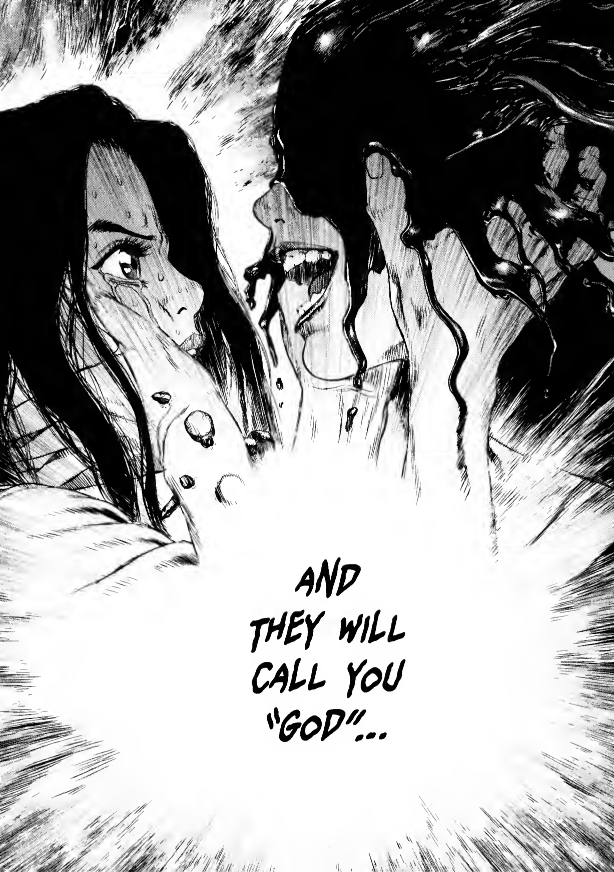

DAD...
MOM...
MITSUO...
DID YOU SEND ME THESE TWO FRIENDS?
IT'S ALL THANKS TO THEM I'M ABLE TO KEEP GOING...
TIME SPENT WITH THEM IS LIKE A PRESENT...

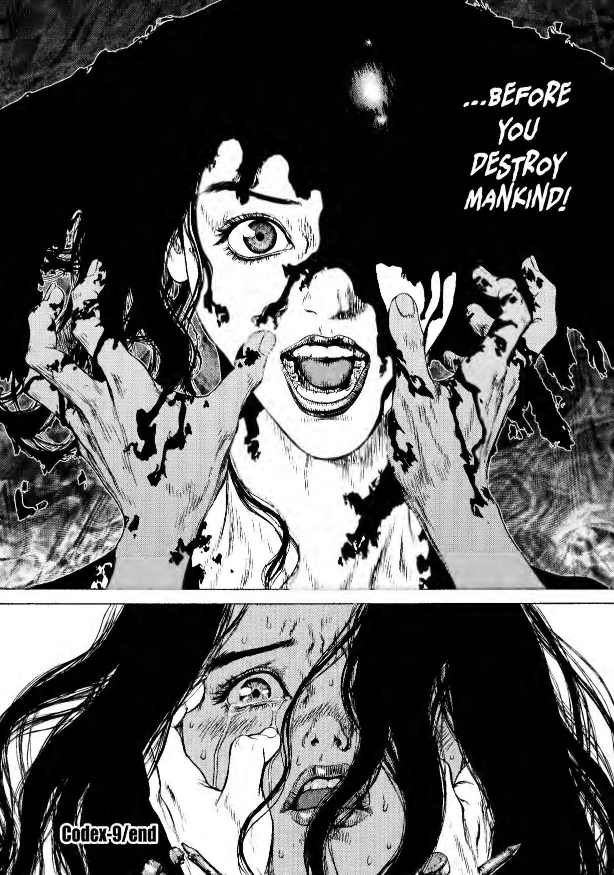

YES, A PRESENT FROM ME.
!
A- ABRAXAS ...!
THE TIME HAS COME FOR OUR PACT TO BE FULFILLED.
DESCENDANT OF NOREA!


FOUR* OF THE TWELVE SACRIFICES HAVE BEEN MADE, BUT EIGHT STILL REMAIN.
THE NEXT SACRIFICE WILL BE SOMEONE OLD...
ABRAXAS!
ギュッ
I DON'T CARE ABOUT YOUR STUPID PACT!
GIVE ME MY FAMILY BACK!
IF YOU LIKE KILLING PEOPLE SO MUCH,
THEN KILL ME INSTEAD!

*Luna's parents, her brother Mitsuo, and Michael Adams.


YOU WILL NOT DIE!
DESCENDANT OF NOREA!
THE GRAND MECHANISM THAT HUMANS CALL KARMA, OR FATE, HAS ALREADY BEGUN TO MOVE.
YOU WILL SURVIVE, LUNA HAZUKI!

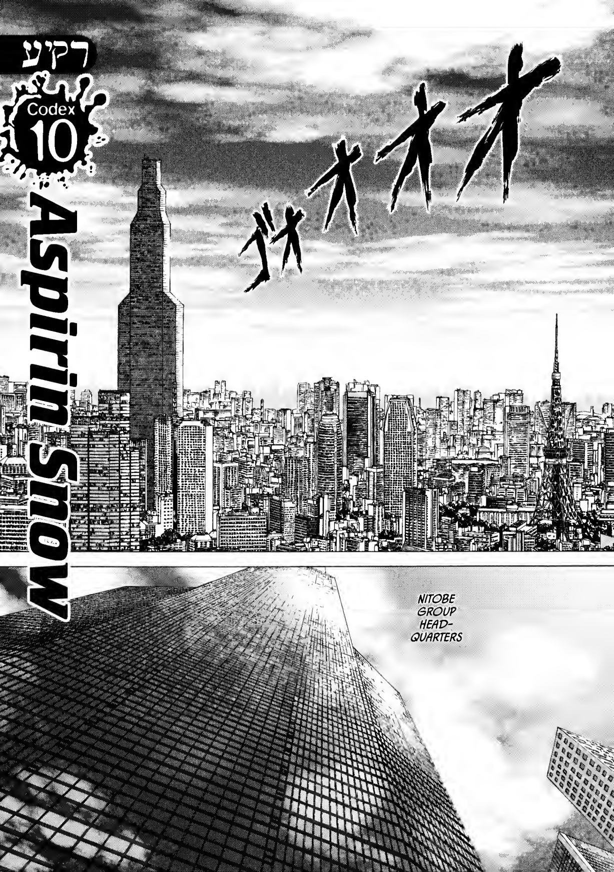

AND THEY WILL CALL YOU "GOD"...

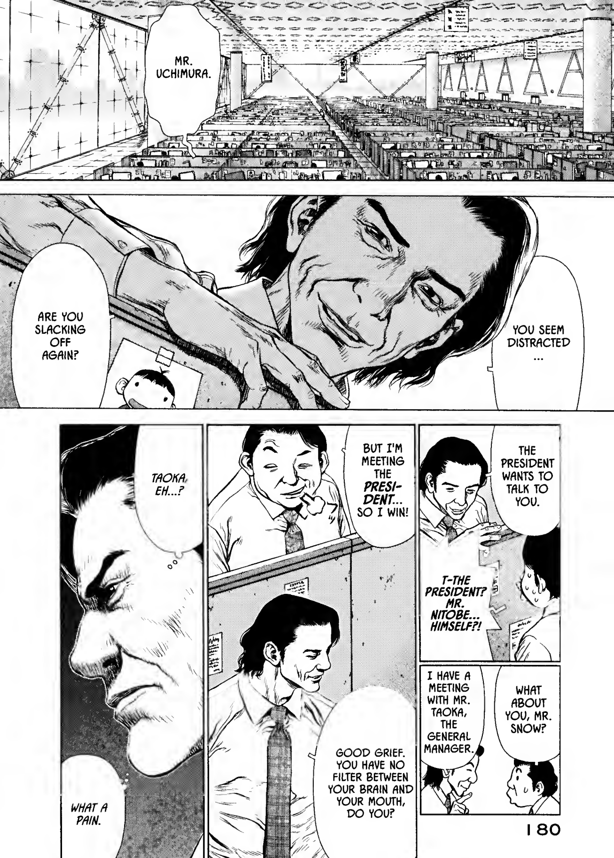

...BEFORE YOU DESTROY MANKIND!
Codex-9/end

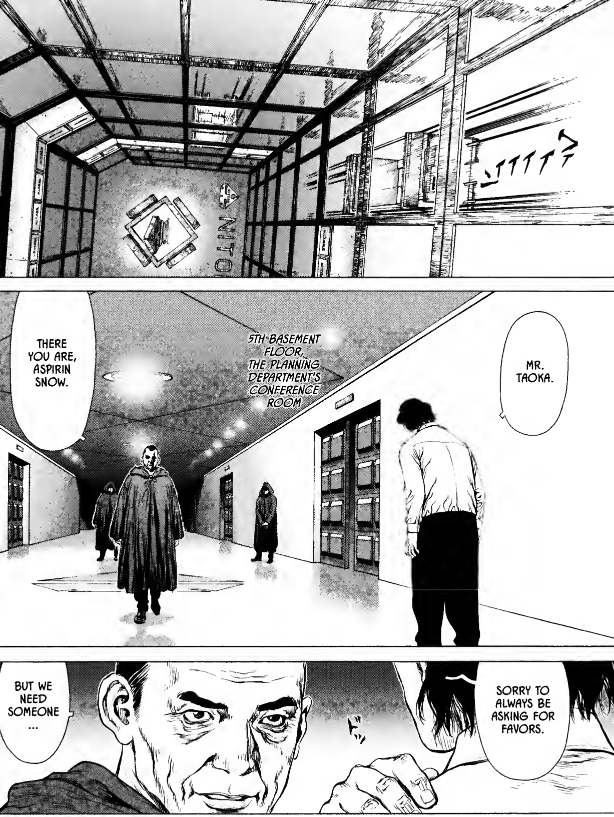
רקיע

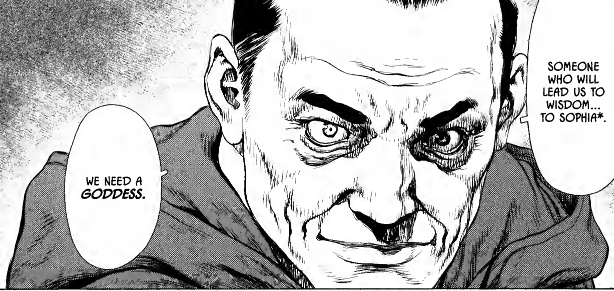
Codex 10

Aspirin Snow

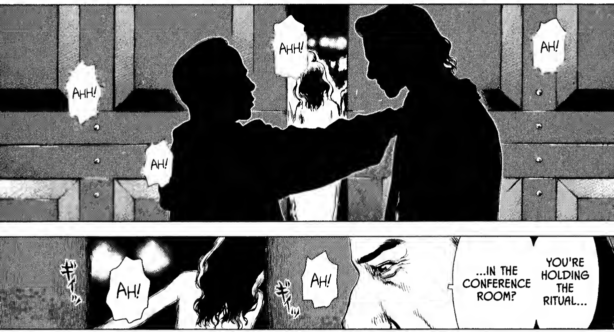

ゴオオオ
NITOBE GROUP HEADQUARTERS

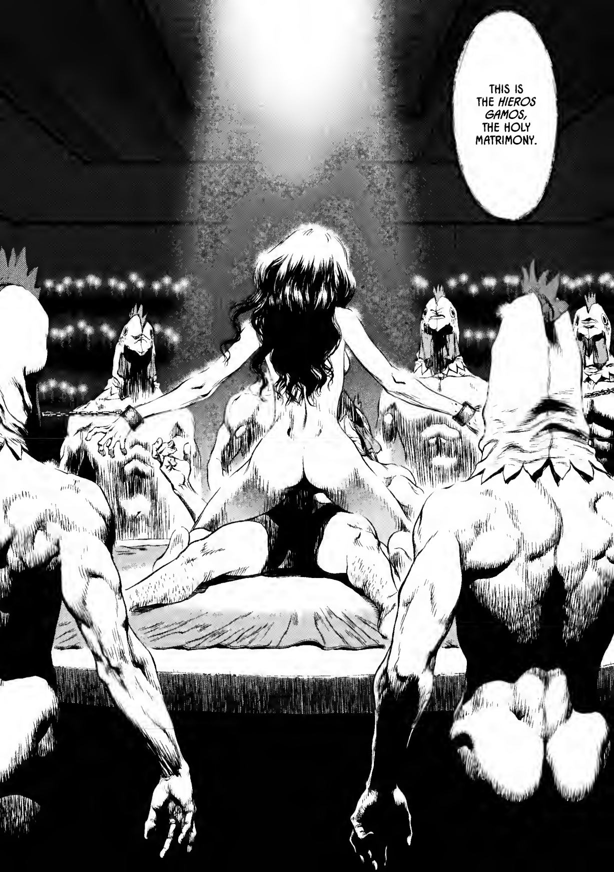

MR. UCHIMURA.
YOU SEEM DISTRACTED ...
ARE YOU SLACKING OFF AGAIN?
THE PRESIDENT WANTS TO TALK TO YOU.
T-THE PRESIDENT? MR. NITOBE... HIMSELF?!
WHAT ABOUT YOU, MR. SNOW?
I HAVE A MEETING WITH MR. TAOKA, THE GENERAL MANAGER.
BUT I'M MEETING THE PRESIDENT... SO I WIN!
GOOD GRIEF. YOU HAVE NO FILTER BETWEEN YOUR BRAIN AND YOUR MOUTH, DO YOU?
TAOKA EH...?
WHAT A PAIN.

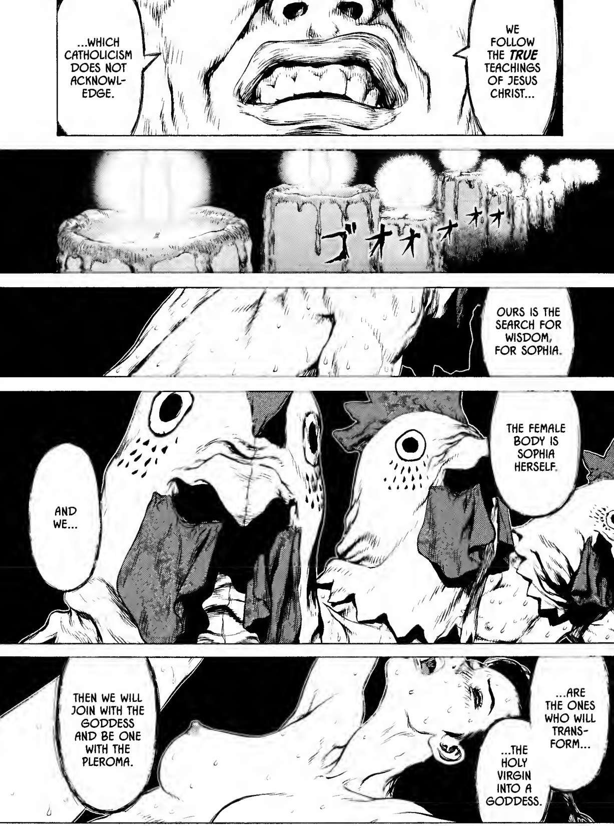

NITO
MR. TAOKA.
5TH BASEMENT FLOOR, THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT'S CONFERENCE ROOM
THERE YOU ARE, ASPIRIN SNOW.
SORRY TO ALWAYS BE ASKING FOR FAVORS.
BUT WE NEED SOMEONE ...

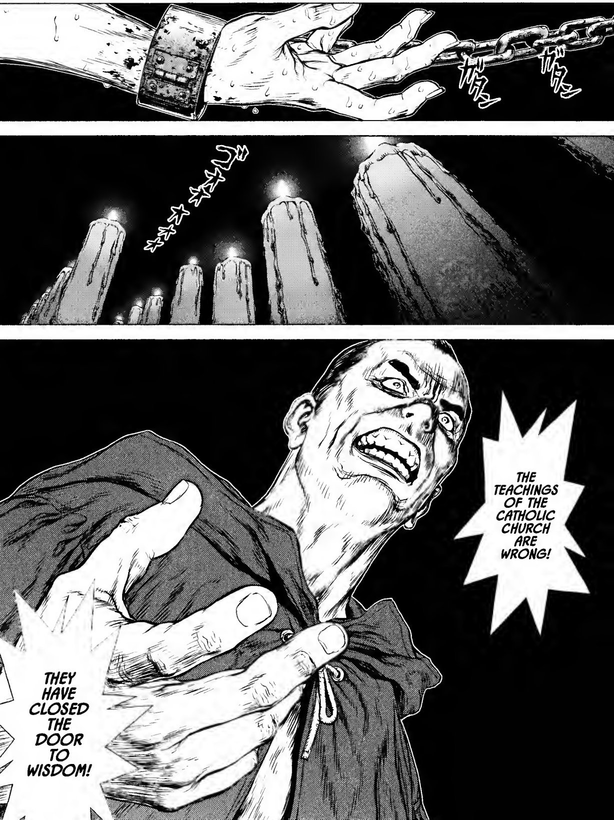

SOMEONE WHO WILL LEAD US TO WISDOM... TO SOPHIA*.
WE NEED A *GODDESS.*

*See the introduction to Gnosticism at the end of chapter 2.


AH!
AHH!
AHH!
AH!
YOU'RE HOLDING THE RITUAL...
...IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM?
AH!
ギィッ
AH!
ギィッ
IT'S NOT THE CONFERENCE ROOM ANYMORE. IT'S THE ***BRIDAL CHAMBER***.
ギィーッ
ギィッ
BESIDES, RITUAL IS HARDLY THE RIGHT DESCRIPTION.
WE ARE PERFORMING A BLESSED AND SACRED CEREMONY.


THIS IS THE *HIEROS GAMOS*, THE HOLY MATRIMONY.


WE FOLLOW THE *TRUE* TEACHINGS OF JESUS CHRIST...
...WHICH CATHOLICISM DOES NOT ACKNOWLEDGE.
ゴオオオオオ
OURS IS THE SEARCH FOR WISDOM, FOR SOPHIA.
THE FEMALE BODY IS SOPHIA HERSELF.
AND WE...
...ARE THE ONES WHO WILL TRANSFORM...
...THE HOLY VIRGIN INTO A GODDESS.
THEN WE WILL JOIN WITH THE GODDESS AND BE ONE WITH THE PLEROMA.


ガタン
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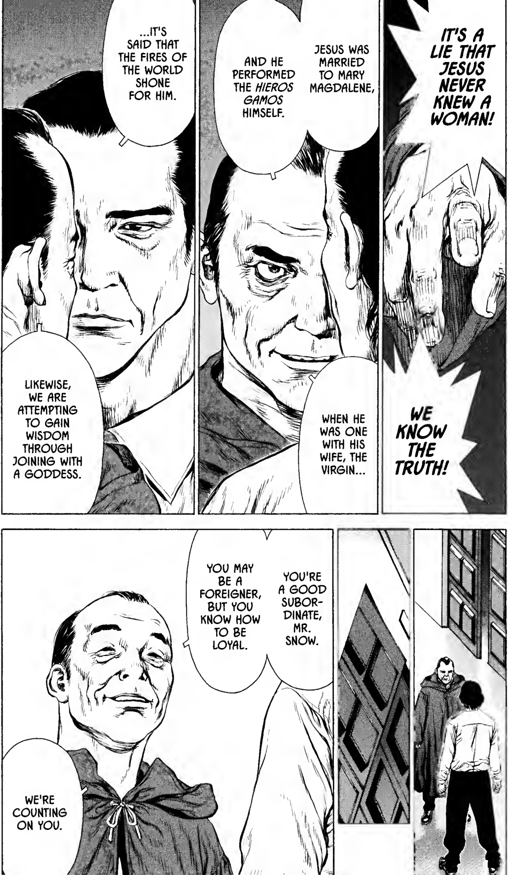
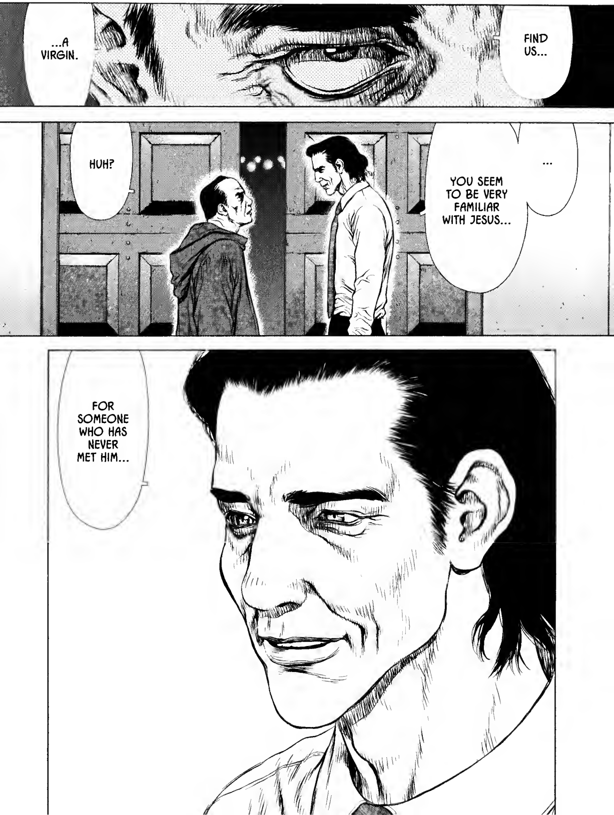
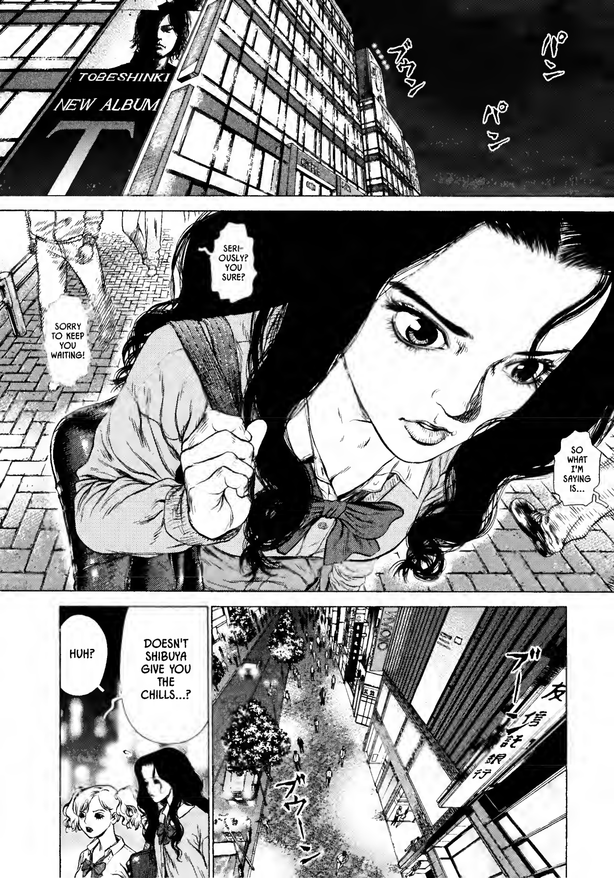
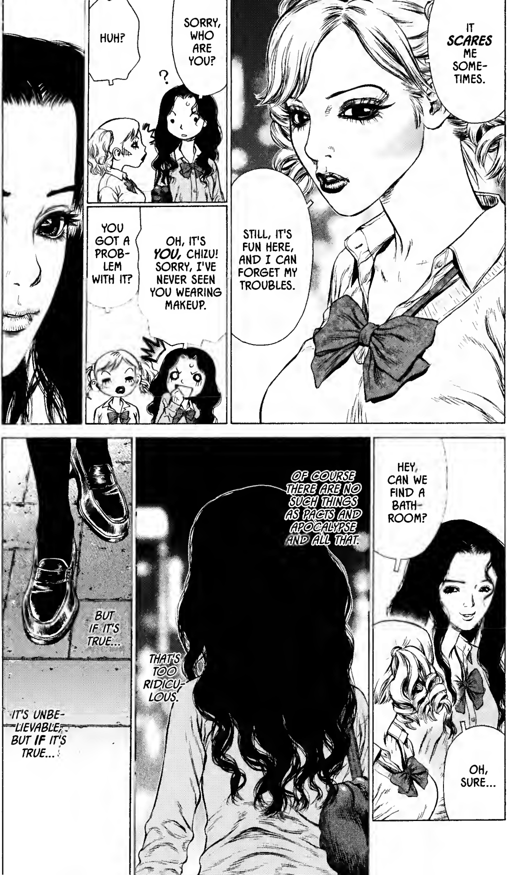
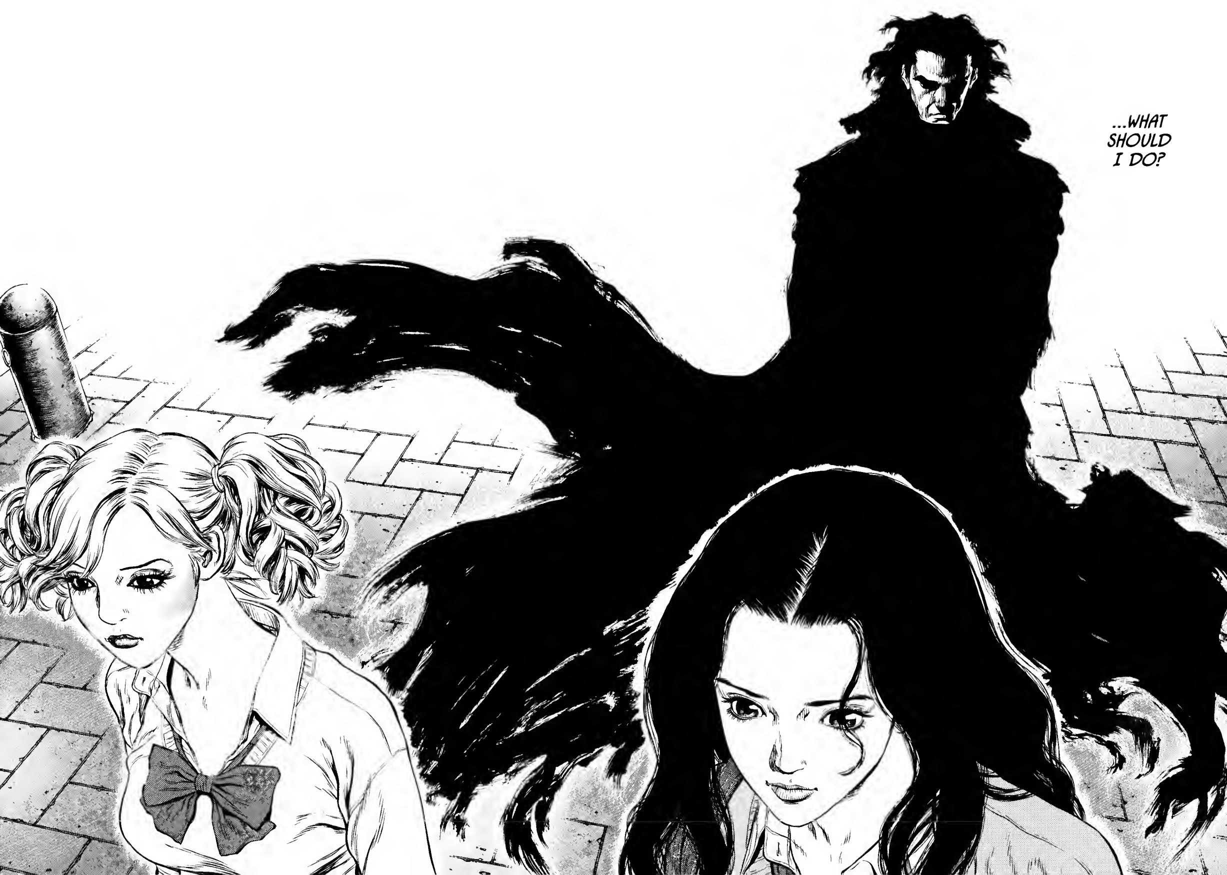
ゴオオオオオ
THE TEACHINGS OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH ARE WRONG!
THEY HAVE CLOSED THE DOOR TO WISDOM!

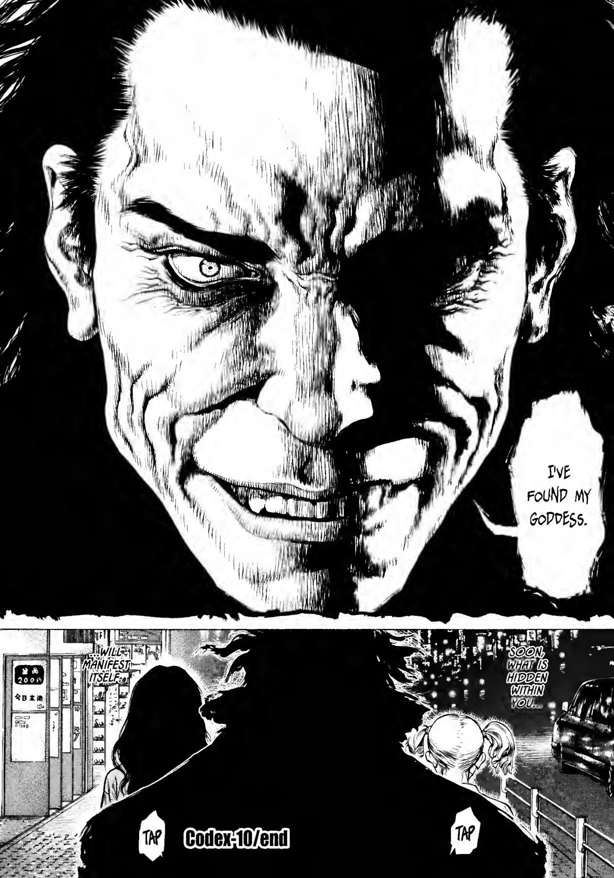

IT'S A LIE THAT JESUS NEVER KNEW A WOMAN!
WE KNOW THE TRUTH!
JESUS WAS MARRIED TO MARY MAGDALENE,
AND HE PERFORMED THE *HIEROS GAMOS* HIMSELF.
WHEN HE WAS ONE WITH HIS WIFE, THE VIRGIN...
...IT'S SAID THAT THE FIRES OF THE WORLD SHONE FOR HIM.
LIKEWISE, WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO GAIN WISDOM THROUGH JOINING WITH A GODDESS.
YOU'RE A GOOD SUBORDINATE, MR. SNOW.
YOU MAY BE A FOREIGNER, BUT YOU KNOW HOW TO BE LOYAL.
WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU.


FIND US...
...A VIRGIN.
...
YOU SEEM TO BE VERY FAMILIAR WITH JESUS...
HUH?
FOR SOMEONE WHO HAS NEVER MET HIM...

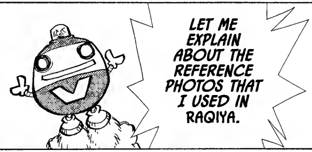

パン
パン
ブウン
TOBESHINKI
NEW ALBUM
T
SO WHAT I'M SAYING IS...
SERIOUSLY? YOU SURE?
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING!
友
信託銀行
ブーー
ブウーン
DOESN'T SHIBUYA GIVE YOU THE CHILLS...?
HUH?

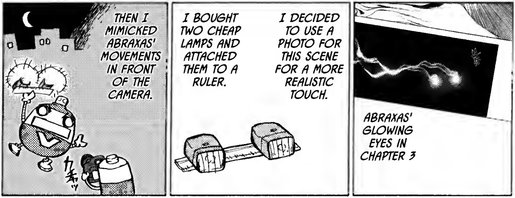

IT *SCARES* ME SOMETIMES.
STILL, IT'S FUN HERE, AND I CAN FORGET MY TROUBLES.
SORRY, WHO ARE YOU?
?
HUH?
OH, IT'S *YOU,* CHIZU! SORRY, I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU WEARING MAKEUP.
YOU GOT A PROBLEM WITH IT?
HEY, CAN WE FIND A BATHROOM?
OH, SURE...
OF COURSE THERE ARE NO SUCH THINGS AS PACTS AND APOCALYPSE AND ALL THAT.
THAT'S TOO RIDICULOUS.
BUT IF IT'S TRUE...
IT'S UNBELIEVABLE, BUT *IF* IT'S TRUE...


...WHAT SHOULD I DO?

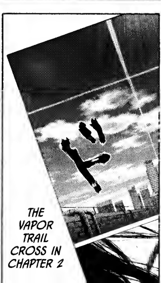

I'VE FOUND MY GODDESS.
SOON, WHAT IS HIDDEN WITHIN YOU...
...WILL MANIFEST ITSELF.
TAP
TAP
Codex-10/end

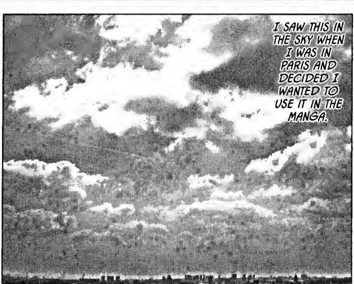
רקיע
RAQIYA
Production Notes

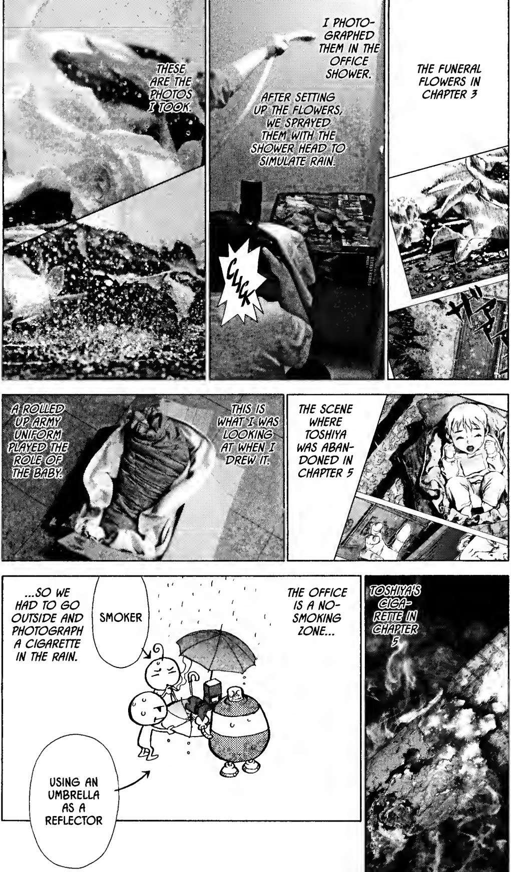

LET ME EXPLAIN ABOUT THE REFERENCE PHOTOS THAT I USED IN RAQIYA.

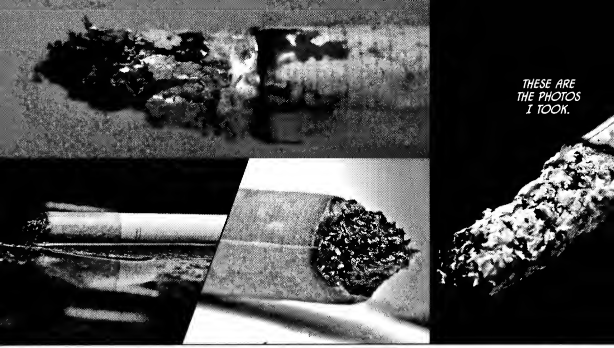

I DECIDED TO USE A PHOTO FOR THIS SCENE FOR A MORE REALISTIC TOUCH.
ABRAXAS' GLOWING EYES IN CHAPTER 3
I BOUGHT TWO CHEAP LAMPS AND ATTACHED THEM TO A RULER.
THEN I MIMICKED ABRAXAS' MOVEMENTS IN FRONT OF THE CAMERA.

HERE ARE MORE PHOTOS TAKEN AT THE TIME!


THE VAPOR TRAIL CROSS IN CHAPTER 2

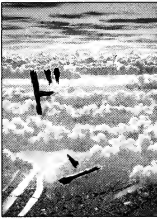

I SAW THIS IN THE SKY WHEN I WAS IN PARIS AND DECIDED I WANTED TO USE IT IN THE MANGA.


THE FUNERAL FLOWERS IN CHAPTER 3
I PHOTOGRAPHED THEM IN THE OFFICE SHOWER.
AFTER SETTING UP THE FLOWERS, WE SPRAYED THEM WITH THE SHOWER HEAD TO SIMULATE RAIN.
CLICK
THESE ARE THE PHOTOS I TOOK.
THE SCENE WHERE TOSHIYA WAS ABANDONED IN CHAPTER 5
THIS IS WHAT I WAS LOOKING AT WHEN I DREW IT.
A ROLLED UP ARMY UNIFORM PLAYED THE ROLE OF THE BABY.
TOSHIYA'S CIGARETTE IN CHAPTER 5
THE OFFICE IS A NO-SMOKING ZONE...
...SO WE HAD TO GO OUTSIDE AND PHOTOGRAPH A CIGARETTE IN THE RAIN.
SMOKER
USING AN UMBRELLA AS A REFLECTOR


THESE ARE THE PHOTOS I TOOK.

THIS IS THE PHOTO I CREATED.
IT WAS ACTUALLY MADE FROM FOUR DIFFERENT PHOTOS!

THE VIEW OF JAPAN FROM THE SKY IN CHAPTER 4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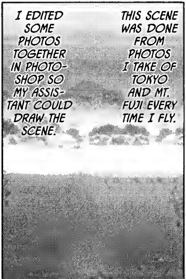
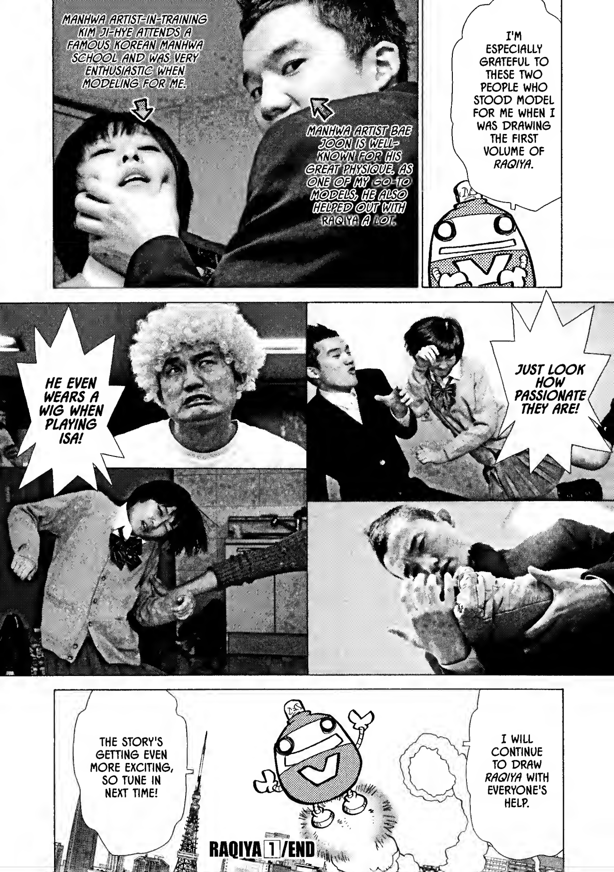

THIS SCENE WAS DONE FROM PHOTOS I TAKE OF TOKYO AND MT. FUJI EVERY TIME I FLY.
I EDITED SOME PHOTOS TOGETHER IN PHOTOSHOP SO MY ASSISTANT COULD DRAW THE SCENE.


I'M ESPECIALLY GRATEFUL TO THESE TWO PEOPLE WHO STOOD MODEL FOR ME WHEN I WAS DRAWING THE FIRST VOLUME OF *RAQIYA*.
MANHWA ARTIST-IN-TRAINING KIM JI-HYE ATTENDS A FAMOUS KOREAN MANHWA SCHOOL AND WAS VERY ENTHUSIASTIC WHEN MODELING FOR ME.
MANHWA ARTIST BAE JOON IS WELL-KNOWN FOR HIS GREAT PHYSIQUE. AS ONE OF MY GO-TO MODELS, HE ALSO HELPED OUT WITH RAQIYA A LOT.
JUST LOOK HOW PASSIONATE THEY ARE!
HE EVEN WEARS A WIG WHEN PLAYING ISA!
I WILL CONTINUE TO DRAW *RAQIYA* WITH EVERYONE'S HELP.
THE STORY'S GETTING EVEN MORE EXCITING, SO TUNE IN NEXT TIME!
RAQIYA 1/END